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CIS, U.S. Officials Discuss Arms Inspection

LD2602193193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A sitting of the joint consultative commission on disarmament issues has ended at the headquarters of the CIS working group in Minsk. In addition to consultations on the practical implementation by CIS states of the treaty on antimissile defense, over the past three days military experts from Commonwealth countries have been holding talks with a U.S. delegation on monitoring [kontrol] within the framework of the treaty on intermediate- and short-range missiles.

[K. Grishchenko, Ukrainian representative] The treaty was physically implemented several years ago, and the missiles were eliminated. At the same time, there remain a number of clauses in the treaty which are being implemented now by a number of states, and that includes those clauses concerning inspection activity. We are discussing how this should be carried out—in what format and in what conditions.

Safety of Ukrainian Nuclear Arms Discussed

LD0203111593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2330 GMT 26 Feb 93

[From the "Top Priority" program]

[Text] [Tkachenko] Hello and welcome to Top Priority, I am Irina Tkachenko. The subject for today: The security of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union republics, the security of nuclear missiles in Ukraine, one of the four republics, one of the three outside of Russia that after the breakup of the Soviet Union found themselves all of a sudden in possession of nuclear weapons—strategic as well as conventional ones. Here at the studios of Radio Moscow with me is my guest Dr. Aleksandr (Rumyantsev) of the Russian Scientific Center, better known by its old name the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy. Now, when we look at Ukraine, the country that in its declaration of sovereignty has enshrined as a principle its desire to become a nonnuclear state and has so far refused to identify itself officially as a nonnuclear state. At the moment it insists on being called a country with nuclear weapons on its territory. In the negotiations under way between Russia and Ukraine on the removal and dismantling of strategic nuclear missiles that under the START agreement are to be scrapped—and Ukraine has on its territory 176 strategic missiles—Ukraine is laying down conditions, the bargaining continues. Meanwhile evidence has surfaced quite recently that technical maintenance and the security of nuclear, strategic nuclear missiles on Ukrainian territory have been weakened, are far from perfect and according to the top brass here in the allied command of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, top-level officials are already calling the situation not only complex but unpredictable. Now when I hear Marshal Shaposhnikov saying something like that I get the jitters and hence my first question to you Dr. (Rumyantsev), what exactly is wrong, what are we talking about when, when we hear the military experts saying: Nobody today can guarantee the security of nuclear missiles in Ukraine?

[(Rumyantsev)] Any complex technology requires a certain procedure in order to be sure that everything is correct and everything is running in a design fashion. It means that strict observation of all rules concerning such things as control and maintenance of warheads and rockets must be followed up without any exceptions from these strict rules. The probability that perhaps some unexpected events, such as fire, earthquake, errors unavoidable due to deficiencies in the personnel training and so on, is estimated on a level of 10 in power minus 6 [as heard] under almost normal conditions. It means that violation of this strict control and maintenance procedure which has to be conducted on monthly basis, means that if you are not going, or you are not able to follow this procedure for 10 months the probability perhaps an unexpected, an accident, is increased at least by a factor of 10. It means the probability to have some accident is increasing from month to month, from failure in electronic equipment which is used for detonation of nuclear warheads, in electronic equipment which is used for prevention of their unauthorized usage, and so on. To me it is very strange even to hear that such sensitive equipment, such sensitive technology cannot be maintained on appropriate level of safety because of some political and other organizational matters.

[Tkachenko] You have described a situation where, as if I understand you right, for 10 months you said, in Ukraine, there have not been the proper timely checkups, technical checkups, that should be conducted on a monthly basis. Is that correct?

[(Rumyantsev)] This was written down and published in newspaper IZVESTIYA just a few days ago.

[Tkachenko] You have given the figures describing the probability of an accident at a nuclear base where the strategic missiles are deployed. Besides saying as one potential cause for this accident of fire, or let us say the intrusion of an outsider, or the lack of skills in the personnel that is supposed to be taking care of the missiles, what exactly happens if a fire breaks out? Can the electronic equipment accidentally, as you have indicated, detonate a warhead? What happens then?

[(Rumyantsev)] Just before I would like to list in accordance with priority the type of external events which may cause the most significant troubles. First of all that is fire. Second one, so-called electric shock of electrical equipment, developed by any reasons [as heard]. And unauthorized intrusion, it seems to me, is less probable than other reasons. In case of fire the most troublesome consequence of the fire event is dispersion of plutonium from the warheads in form of plutonium dioxide. Plus it may be explosion of usual explosive material, because of

unexpected detonation, again provoked by the fire. That is one of the most probable situations. In this case, dependent upon the wind and other external conditions, meteorological conditions, the dispersed plutonium in the form of dioxide may cover the significant territory around nuclear base.

[Tkachenko] So what we are talking about here is not the accidental launching of a missile. Let us define the type of the accident that could happen. But the localized spill out of radioactive material...

[(Rumyantsev), interrupting] Yes....

[Tkachenko, interrupting] That is the most...

[(Rumyantsev), interrupting] That is the most important trouble what has to be expected in case of violation of maintenance and check procedure. One of the most important reasons for fire is violation of check and maintenance procedure. The probability of unexpected launch is decreasing. But the probability of unexpected dispersion of plutonium because of detonation of normal explosive material, not the nuclear material, not, I am not talking about nuclear detonation. I firmly believe that nuclear detonation because of design of Soviet warheads is improbable. But in case of fire, dispersion of plutonium will create immediate, and, er, immediate threat to the local population.

[Tkachenko] Why is this happening? Why do you think that the nuclear weapons, the places where the most vigorous, the tightest security is always in place, is falling into disrepair in Ukraine? Is it the lack of understanding or awareness of the risks involved or the lack of money? You said you were outraged by any examples of, of any political motivation for it. Well, if it is not politics, what is it?

[(Rumyantsev)] Before Chernobyl everybody who was involved in the nuclear technology was almost sure that our installations are as safe as possible. But Chernobyl shows that group actions of irresponsible personnel, who have a certain lack in professional knowledge, who are not well trained and so on and so forth, may lead to unexpected consequences. The same may be said about maintenance of nuclear technology in case of warheads. The basic reason is lack of culture in safety related fields and politicians trying to resolve their personal or, let us say their so-called political problems. They must know that our century is a century of highly complex technologies, some of which are extremely dangerous. The level of danger depends on qualification and mentality of people who are involved in dealing with such sensitive technologies. And nuclear technology is one of them.

[Tkachenko] Dr. (Rumyantsev), why is it that we have begun to talk about this only now, the end of February in 1993? After all, the Soviet Union's collapse occurred at the end of 1991. The Ukraine, as well as Russia, has been independent for well over a year. For scientists who specialize in this, who know all of this miles better than anybody else, who understand the dangers and the risks involved, was it not obvious before that the situation can exacerbate fast?

[(Rumyantsev)] It seems to me all specialists involved in the warhead safety were well informed about what is going on [words indistinct], but before publication in newspaper IZVESTIYA, a small article about, let us say, violation of the check/maintenance procedure, the people outside have no knowledge about it. All of these things concerning safety and security of warheads are matter of the top secret.

[Tkachenko] So what you are saying is, this is only one example of the areas that are still a big secret, that should not be discussed out in public, no matter how dangerous the situation is?

[(Rumyantsev)] It seems to me we are talking just about the present situation. Present situation is such that safety and security problems sometimes cannot be discussed in public because of secrecy which is necessary in case of dealing with such sensitive technology. But there is a certain area which has to be observed for certain, let us say a level of confidence, what has to be observed by specialists. They are morally obliged to [word indistinct] about such violations in case when politicians are not capable to solve this difficult but solvable problem.

[Tkachenko] Now, let me ask you a personal question. Did you personally, or people who work in the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy, suspect in any way that things might be going in the wrong direction in Ukraine before this recent publication in IZVESTIYA which basically said the security is weakening?

[(Rumyantsev)] Because of disappearing of the Soviet Union all of us understood in the past that the whole infrastructure developed for nuclear industry in our country collapsed. A lot of things which was quite natural and quite simple to organize, let us say a few years ago, became extremely difficult. A lot of, let us say, business matters which was more or less simple to resolve a few years ago became unresolvable. In this case guess, only guess, maybe....

[Tkachenko, interrupting] You mean all you could do was guesswork....

[(Rumyantsev), interrupting] Yes, yes, guesswork....

[Tkachenko, interrupting] That's all....

[(Rumyantsev), interrupting] ...guesswork.

[Tkachenko] Dr. (Rumyantsev), my probably my last question to you today would be: How long do you think can this situation persist? We have heard just this past week that the Russian Defense Ministry has allocated a sum of money that would be just enough to carry out the basic maintenance procedures of nuclear installations in Ukraine, and Ukraine has agreed to receive Russian

technicians and engineers to carry out those check ups. Will this resolve the issue?

[(Rumyantsev)] In any case these actions will decrease the risk of unexpected events concerning warheads, safety of warheads. But it seems to me we have to distinguish the short-term, the short-term and long-term purposes. To my opinion nuclear arm [as heard] reduction must be, must follow up in the direction which was agreed with Americans. The safety of such sensitive technologies costs much less than any trouble, problems, any kind of disaster.

[Tkachenko] Let me remind our listeners that today on Top Priority I have been talking to Dr. Aleksandr (Rumyantsev) of the Russian Scientific Center, also known by its old name as the Institute of Atomic Energy named after Kurchatov. From me, Irina Tkachenko, good-bye and good listening.

CIS 'Oil Summit' Begins in Surgut 1 Mar

OW0103165993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 01 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] A meeting of the heads of the former Soviet republics in Surgut starts Monday [1 March] to concentrate on problems in Western Siberia's fuel and energy complex and the prospects for former Soviet republics to invest in Russia's fuel and energy complex. [passage omitted]

On Tuesday Vladimir Mashits, the chairman of the Russian state committee on economic cooperation with the CIS countries, and Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik are to give reports.

A joint agreement is to be signed on the results of the meeting. There are even plans to create an intergovernmental oil and gas council.

According to experts, the success of the summit primarily depends on whether or not supply problems of Russian fuel and energy to Ukraine are resolved. Premier Kuchma declared in Kiev some days ago that if he fails to agree on prices for oil and gas then it will be equal to "an economic blockade by Russia." "Trading at world prices, we destroy the economic space which existed within the former USSR," said the head of the Ukrainian government.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: While attempting to solve the problem of fuel and energy in Surgut, the Ukrainian government is simultaneously considering alternative fuel sources. In particular, the premier's adviser Oleg Soskin said that deliveries from OPEC countries could be an alternative to Russian fuel supplies. Due to this, Ukraine is studying the opportunity of receiving oil via its western border by land or by tankers via sea ports. Soskin is convinced that Ukraine is able to build its own badly-needed tanker fleet.

The Ukrainian government prohibited the sale of fuel from state reserves to the owners of private cars beginning Monday, March 1. The aim of this move is to channel a maximum of gasoline and diesel fuel (about 80%) to spring sowing works. The other portion will be used to maintain cities.

Russians Warn of Oil 'Collapse'

OW0103174393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian State Committee on Economic Relations with CIS Countries Vladimir Mashchits said that under the current conditions there is only one way to develop the oil and gas complex on the territory of the former USSR. Appearing Monday [1 March] in Surgut at the opening of the conference on the development of Russian oil and gas deposits, he stressed that either all former USSR republics will have to make capital contributions to the development of the oil and gas sector, or the sector will eventually collapse.

Mashchits said the former Soviet republics would receive energy resources from Russia in proportion to the amount of their investments to the Russian fuel and energy complex.

Mashchits said that 12% of the oil extracted from wells in the former USSR was secured through capital investments from the republics.

Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik claimed that the Commonwealth states do not fully understand the problem currently facing the Russian oil and gas complex. He said the volume of oil extraction will drop by 340 Mn [million] tons this year. Russia's domestic demand alone amounts to 240 Mn tons. Shafranik claimed that without investments from CIS partners and the Baltic and Caucasian states, in the future the Russian fuel and energy complex would be able to satisfy only Russia's domestic demands and the demands of countries outside the former USSR.

Shafranik said the supplies of oil and gas to CIS countries last year would have cost $6.5 Bn [billion] at world market prices.

The minister noted that while Russia fulfilled its export commitments to Commonwealth states last year, the CIS fulfilled only slightly more than 10% of their export commitments to Russia. As a result, their debt to the Russian Federation from fuel and energy industry shipments alone totalled 1.8 Tn rubles, including a 1 Tn [trillion] ruble debt in oil supplies.

Shafranik proposed forming a council to oversee the development of the Russian fuel and energy complex within the framework of the CIS and the Baltic and Caucasian states. The council, the Russian fuel and energy minister said, would be able to fundamentally change the situation in energy product shipments to republics of the former Soviet Union. He believes the council would also enable the former Soviet republics to maintain control not only over capital contributions to the oil and gas sector, but also over the sector's work.

Of the 15 former USSR republics, only Turkmenistan and Latvia are not participating in the conference in Surgut (the regional center of the Tyumen District in western Siberia), although Estonia is participating only as an observer. The conference is intended as a forum for heads of the governments of CIS, Baltic, and Caucasian states to discuss issues of participating in the development of Russian oil and gas deposits.

Kuchma, Shafranik Comment

OW0103192393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1907 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Representatives of CIS, Baltic, and Caucasian states met Monday [1 March] in Surgut (the regional center of the Tyumen District in western Siberia) for the first round of an interstate conference on collaboration in the oil and gas industry. Of the 15 former Soviet republics, only two did not participate - Turkmenistan and Latvia.

After a plenary session delegation leaders met for a closed conference.

In an exclusive interview with an Interfax correspondent following the conference, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma said that on Tuesday in Surgut they plan to sign an agreement on an intergovernmental council on oil and gas issues and a charter for the council. Kuchma said the council would be led by the heads of governments of CIS, Baltic, and Caucasian states, but fuel and energy ministers would directly supervise the council's work.

Kuchma said he was pleased with the progress of the conference in Surgut. He said they did not discuss shipments of energy products from Russia to Ukraine because, he said, "this forum is not the place for discussing such problems." The head of the Ukrainian cabinet said he was dissatisfied with the quota on energy resource shipments that Russia has set for Ukraine.

He expressed gratitude to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for expanding the circle of participants in the Surgut conference. According to Kuchma, originally, only the Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers planned to meet in Surgut, but Chernomyrdin proposed inviting all 15 former Soviet republics to the conference on oil and gas issues. Chernomyrdin himself was unable to participate in the first day of the conference, due to illness.

Discussing the results of the final level of the first round of negotiations, which were conducted behind closed doors, Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik told Interfax that the main problem in the development of the final version of documents was the issue of prices. Interfax has learned that the issue under dispute was not regarding specific prices on energy product supplies, but rather concerning the time frames for the transition to world prices.

Aleksandr Volovik, president of the Russian commercial corporation B Gas C and a conference participant, told Interfax that during the meeting the representatives of Bashkortostan and Tatarstan expressed their plans to sign the documents from the meeting separately from Russia, on an equal level with the other former Soviet republics. However, Volovik said the other conference participants disagreed with this proposal, since none of the other republics recognizes Bashkortostan and Tatarstan as subjects of international law.

Oil, Gas Council Established

OW0203101693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0939 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Participants in a meeting of government heads of former Soviet republics in Tyumen on Tuesday [2 March] signed an agreement on the formation of an inter-government council on oil and gas.

The agreement notes that the council will be called upon to unite the republics' forces in the areas of investment, scientific, technical, and other forms of cooperation, and for the working out of a common policy so as to further stability and further development of the oil and gas sectors.

The inter-governmental charter adopted by the government heads states that the new organization is to be open to any other states willing to take on the specified obligations.

The agreement was signed by the prime ministers or plenipotentiary representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. Only Latvia, Estonia, and Turkmenistan are absent from the agreement.

The highest organ of the inter-governmental council is to be the conference of heads of state, which will be held at least twice a year. The conference will adopt regulations and procedures for passing resolutions. The council's executive body will be the council of minister-heads of national fuel and energy administrations. The council of ministers will meet at least once per quarter. Preparation for the next session of the council of ministers was made the responsibility of Russian Minister of Fuel and Energy Yuriy Shafranik. According to the session's protocol, this session will take place in Moscow on 30 March.

A joint communique adopted in Surgut states that within the framework of the council, advisable forms of joint activity will include the making of service contracts for various types of work, the establishment of different types of joint enterprises, and the development of direct trade and economic ties between enterprises located in member-states of the council.

The initial version of the protocol contained a provision stating that the parties agreed that prices for oil and gas would reflect the competence of the state in which the resources were produced. The final version, however, did not include this clause.

In an interview with Interfax, Russian Vice-Premier Georgiy Khizha explained that the forum did not touch on questions of price-setting, which will be the subject of

bilateral negotiations. The Russian delegation, he said, had already given its partners draft resolutions on the matter.

Shafranik said in an interview with Interfax that the Russian Federation was interested in "the networking of different forms of property among the council's member-states." He pointed out that Russia was interested in receiving parts of the property of oil extracting and processing enterprises in other member-states of the council, and was, for its part, ready to offer its partners shares in its own enterprises. As an example, Shafranik referred to the Mazheikyaishky oil-refining conglomerate in Lithuania, part of whose capacity was rented to Russia with the right of subsequent redemption. Russia is ready, noted Shafranik, to make similar arrangements with regard to its own enterprises.

CIS Defense Ministers Discuss Military Hierarchy

LD0103182893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1600 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Bakatin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar—A news conference at the high command headquarters today was devoted to the results of the first conference of the six defense ministers of the CIS states that signed the Treaty on Collective Security. Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, informed journalists that the ministers prepared a package of documents on military issues for the forthcoming summit.

In particular, a draft agreement on the implementation of the Treaty on Collective Security, which envisages the setting up of a Council for Collective Security, will be submitted. It will consist of the presidents and prime ministers of the six states that signed the treaty. This body is being reinforced by the Council of Defense Ministers and the Council of Foreign Ministers, whose chairmen will enter the Council for Collective Security. A secretariat headed by a general secretary will become its working body. Lower down there are the High Command, its committees, and the Joint Armed Forces.

The defense ministers of the "six countries" also spoke in favor of integration in the defense industry. According to Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, it is obvious that bilateral relations in military construction are not enough. Cooperation like that in this sphere does not exist in any other industry; that is why it was proposed that interstate corporations for producing military goods should be set up on the basis of some scientific and industrial centers.

Answering the question of an ITAR-TASS correspondent as to whether the problem of setting up regional military groupings from subunits of national armies had been examined, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov did not exclude the possibility of creating such groupings for some types of troops.

Shaposhnikov for 'New Principle'

OW0103180093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The CIS Commander-in-Chief Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov has said neither NATO nor the Warsaw Treaty Organization, in their "pure form," is the pattern to reform the CIS armed forces. There has to be a fundamentally new principle.

He explained that NATO implied participation only in some structures of its military organization, which was its weak point, while a Warsaw-Treaty-type option was unacceptable to a number of sovereign states, because the CIS commander would automatically become a deputy of the Russian Defense Minister and the status of the Defense Ministers of sovereign states would remain unclear.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said he would prefer the NATO option. He hopes it will be possible to achieve a compromise. At Saturday's [27 February] meeting of the Defense Ministers of the countries signatories to the treaty of collective security Russia and Uzbekistan voted for the Warsaw Treaty option, while Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tadjikistan supported the NATO pattern.

Marshal Shaposhnikov said that to bring about a system of collective security efforts by defense ministries alone were not enough. "Political structures have to be employed, too," he said. A future collective security council must include the presidents and prime ministers and the councils of CIS defense and foreign ministers.

Marshal Shaposhnikov noted the importance of enhancing cooperation in the defense complex and manning the armed forces on a joint basis.

Baltics Hold Conference on Defense Concepts

OW2602215693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1933 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A seminar on defense concepts and coordination of military principles among the Baltics took place in Riga February 26. It was attended by scientists and military specialists from all three Baltic states.

Opening the seminar Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis said that now that the Baltics are searching for their place in the European collective security system, cooperation and coordination in the military sphere are essential.

Representatives of the Baltics' military departments discussed defense systems of Denmark, Sweden, Finland

and other countries, and focused on the histroy of relations in the military sphere among Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Baltic Defense Forces To Conduct Joint Maneuvers

OW2402212793 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1720 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The defense forces of the Baltic states will conduct joint maneuvers in May to "prepare a Baltic Peacekeeping Force for the international community."

The agreement to do so was reached at a meeting in Tallinn on February 24 between the heads of the military departments of Lithuania - Audrius Butkevicius; Latvia - Talavs Jundzis; and Estonia - Hain Rebas.

A press release from the three ministers on the results of the meeting says they discussed ways to coordinate their efforts in crisis management, establish safe links of communication and information exchange, and control and protect common airspace and sea borders. Participants in the meeting cited the need to make the transition to NATO standards and form documents and topographical maps.

Central Asian States Sign Radio, TV Cooperation Deal

PM2602141593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 1

[Viktor Gerasimov report under the "Brief and to the Point" rubric: "Look and Listen!"]

[Text] The leaders of the television and radio organizations of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have taken the first step toward creating Central Asian Television and Radio. They signed a protocol in Tashkent whereby each republic will by turns, once a week, broadcast one hour of television and radio programs (both in their own and in the Russian language) on the first channel of the national television and radio organizations.

Publish New Newspaper

LD2702145393 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1144 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] A new newspaper, NOVYY DEN, has appeared in the newspaper kiosks of cities of Central Asia. "Our aim is to bring the people of the countries of Central Asia closer together. The paper will inform the readers about the main events in this wide region," says Adilbek Kairbergenov, chief editor of the new publication. [passage omitted]

Sagalayev Interviewed on Ostankino TV Privatization

LD2602165693

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0527 GMT on 26 February carries a two-minute interview with Eduard Sagalayev, chairman of the Moscow Independent Broadcasting Corporation, by VKT correspondent Vasiliy Borisov about problems facing Ostankino with regard to moves toward privatization.

Sagalayev says: "I am worried by the fact that of late the process of turning Ostankino into another hotspot on the map of Russia has been gaining speed. The television station has become a battlefield for the different political forces, the different parties and groupings. And it is a great misfortune for our country, for all of us, both at the summit of power and in this television field that it is not opponents who have actually entered single combat, but enemies, political enemies, and enemies even from a purely human point of view. This is why this is being accompanied by some kind of elements of hysteria and resignations, statements, and sorting things out which does, in my view, testify to what is in general a completely uncivilized state of society which has invaded a structure like television that was formerly stable, and to the fact that one must make drastic changes rapidly and seriously to television in general."

Asked whether it is just that Ostankino is a nice titbit of state property for privatization, Sagalayev expresses doubt as to whether Ostankino should be privatized. "I am convinced of the fact that our state does not need five state channels, for which there is insufficient money in the budget and which create an abnormal situation in the television market."

Sagalayev states that the state should not maintain five satellite television channels, whose parts have to be purchased abroad for foreign currency. Besides the main channel, it could have another public education channel and the remaining channels could be given to independent broadcasters. Currently, while the state is subsidizing five channels, the cheapest way of providing programs is to buy cheap soaps from countries like Mexico, thus furnishing jobs for simultaneous translators, and make enormous sums out of advertising.

Sagalayev goes on to say that he believes some kind of headway in reorganizing television will be made when the law on television and radio broadcasting, which is currently being examined at the Supreme Soviet, is adopted. He objects to the five percent restriction on advertising and stresses the need for enterprises to spend as much as they wish on advertising.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 2 Mar

LD0203064293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0534 GMT 2 Mar 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—Today's newspapers highlight President Boris Yeltsin's speech at the Civil Union forum on Sunday [28 February].

"Boris Yeltsin Seeks Accord With the Opposition" is the headline of PRAVDA's brief commentary on the president's address as well as of an interview with the president. The newspaper draws special attention to Yeltsin's pronouncement during the Sunday address that "it is essential to strive for universal concord in order to prevent a 'counterrevolutionary' outburst."

The idea was furthered in the president's interview. He said in particular that he is "seriously reassessing the role of the Civil Union and intends to have a dialogue with it since the Civil Union brings together large political forces." In this connection the president pointed out that one can speak about "a turn to dialogue" in his policy.

TRUD regards Yeltsin's address at the Civil Union forum as "the beginning of a series of consultations" and a call to "the authorities and politicians to show prudence."

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA lays emphasis on a strong criticism, voiced during the Civil Union forum on Sunday, of the errors made by the leadership in the pursuance of the political course. The newspaper, quoting the president, singles out his idea that "efforts have been made to loosen the accord reached at the Seventh Congress [of Russian People's Deputies] and question both individual points and the agreement as a whole. Proposals that are being made in parliament about a new constitution provisions not only upset the balance of powers but also radically change the situation..."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) believes that the president, through his participation in the work of the Civil Union forum and his address, made "yet another attempt to find out how things stand and make sure that his political positions are strong."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) quotes Vasily Lipitsky, one of the leaders of the Civil Union, as saying that "Yeltsin's attendance of the second congress of the Civil Union and his pronouncements about intentions to orient himself towards centrist forces indicate that the president has held out his hand to the Civil Union."

In an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, Aslanbek Aslakhanov, chairman of the Russian parliament committee for legality, law and order, and fight against crime, called for resolute and collective actions to combat crime which has assumed unprecedented proportions in Russia. Success of the efforts will depend in many respects on an active position on the problem on the part of the top echelons of Russian power, he points out.

PRAVDA runs an interview with Vladimir Kryzhanovsky, the ambassador of Ukraine to Russia, who, having recognised a number of problems existing in present-day Ukrainian-Russian relations, called for a "calm dialogue and a respectful attitude to the partner, which will make it possible to resolve all contentious issues."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA runs the text of an interview with Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander on the Baltic Fleet, who mentioned a number of difficult tasks facing the fleet now, primarily those connected with the forthcoming withdrawal of hundreds of its units from the Baltics.

Admiral Yegorov emphasised that "the fleet remains a normal combat-ready outfight with two naval bases and all relevant agencies." He also pointed out that "the numerical strength of the fleet will be reduced by 39 percent."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, reporting a "conceptual speech" made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev before the members of the Danish foreign policy association, draws a conclusion that the minister made it clear that Russia strives for new European-security priorities based on partnership relations with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Russia's subsequent entry into the Council of Europe as a full and equal member.

Under the rubric "The Parliamentary Diary" SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries in article by People's Deputy Vladimir Isakov, who analyses new concepts in Russian foreign policy.

Isakov's opinion is that the Russian foreign ministry adheres to "false reference points" in foreign policy. He believes that the very concept is profoundly fallacious and that the motives the Russian diplomacy is guided by in its activities are an "aspiration to indulge in wishful thinking."

Agreement on Summit Reflects U.S. Support for Yeltsin

PM0103145393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Golts article: "Washington Supports Yeltsin"]

[Text] The agreement between the U.S. and Russian foreign policy department chiefs that a meeting of the two countries' presidents will take place 4 April goes far beyond the framework of diplomatic protocol. Washington is thus giving a definite signal of how it assesses the events taking place in Russia. The new U.S. Administration is showing that it is confident that the Russian president will successfully overcome all the difficulties facing him in March. Moreover, by agreeing to hold a summit meeting a week before the proposed referendum, Clinton is clearly demonstrating support for Yeltsin.

"The success of the reforms being implemented in Russia by President Yeltsin and genuine Russian-U.S. partnership are of primary importance for the policies of the U.S. President and his administration," is how a White House spokesman commented on this decision.

So it looks like the predictions of those who assumed that there was bound to be a certain pause in U.S.-Russian relations are not coming true. The White House has evidently already determined its priorities in Russian policy and does not intend to wait and see. Thus, some days ago Clinton unhesitatingly dismissed the well-known U.S. diplomat Armitage, who allowed himself to state that Yeltsin's days as president are numbered.

So, the Americans are prepared to support Yeltsin's policies. So far, it is true, mainly with words. The future will show whether they will be followed by specific financial and economic support for the Russian reforms.

Pentagon Report on ICBMs Considered 'One-Sided'

LD0103211593 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov, read by announcer]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON TIMES concludes with reference to a Pentagon report that intercontinental ballistic missiles in other countries are not a threat for the United States now, but such a menace cannot be ruled out in the future. Now a commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov:

This report is significant in many ways. To begin with it testifies to the Pentagon's realistic assessment of the situation in the world today. Drawn up by the Pentagon's Strategic Defense Initiative Organization, the report acknowledges that none of the countries currently possessing intercontinental ballistic missiles, nor even those that will be able to have such weapons within the next decade, are hostile toward the United States. As for the future, the document fairly focuses on the dangers that a proliferation of missile technologies could lead to.

But the assessments given there are one-sided. The report claims, for one, that the greatest danger to U.S. security could come from such hostile countries as Iran, Iraq, and Libya, if they acquire such technology. For some reason Russia and other former Soviet republics—plus China—are regarded as a source of missile technology.

Meanwhile, technology leaked from companies in a number of Western countries is common knowledge. For instance, a number of UN experts who have inspected munitions plants in Iraq in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions have found that Soviet-made Scud rockets have been modernized with assistance from German firms and experts. There have been reports of the involvement of American and other Western companies in building up the arsenal of various weapons, nuclear missiles included, in Iraq.

So the problem of preventing the proliferation of missile technology should be viewed wider than in the Pentagon's report. To solve the problem cooperation between all the nations concerned is essential.

It's also important to respect the commercial interests of all countries in developing the production of rockets for civilian use, for instance rockets for weather and communication satellites and various space probes. Work to develop such rockets is underway in Sweden, Japan, India, and some other countries. A one-sided approach prompted by the desire to infringe on the interests of competitors on the pretext of care about international security is totally inappropriate.

As an example of such policy, we can refer to the American sanctions against a Russian company that has signed a contract for the supply to India of cryogenic engines for rockets to launch communication satellites.

In short, the problem to create reliable barriers to the proliferation of ballistic missiles is rather complex and multifaceted. The consolidation of international security and respect for the commercial interests of states, as well as the exploration of outer space in peaceful purposes, all this requires the attention and effort of the world community.

Moscow Denies Report on Secret Arms Deal With Serbia

PM0103222993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "According to Report in THE OBSERVER, Russia Is Delivering Latest Weapons to Serbs in Contravention of Embargo. Moscow Categorically Denies These Allegations"]

[Text] London's THE OBSERVER published a sensa-'ional report 28 February which was immediately seized upon by leading news agencies. The newspaper claims that, in contravention of the UN-imposed embargo, Russia has delivered the latest weapons to Yugoslavia, and also to Serb detachments in Bosnia-Hercegovina, to the tune of $360 million.

According to the OBSERVER report, Serbs have purchased from Russia tanks and missiles capable of hitting a target at a distance of 600 km. The secret deal was concluded 22 January. Prior talks between Serb representatives and "generals of the Russian Army and special services" were held in Romania and Bulgaria.

THE OBSERVER claims that the agreement on arms deliveries was signed by leaders of Serb formations in Croatia: The Belgrade leadership did not formally participate in this deal. Russian specialists in the operation of missile systems, the paper reports, were immediately sent to Serb-controlled regions of Croatia. Their presence, in the British journalists' opinion, partially explains the Serbs' successful opposition to the Croatian offensive in Krajina, which began in late January.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to which we turned for explanations, categorically denied the OBSERVER report. "Not one claim of the authors of the article corresponds to reality," a diplomat, who did not wish to be named, stated. In his words, Russia supports compliance with the embargo on deliveries of arms to all parties to the conflict, no "secret talks" took place in Romania and Bulgaria, and there is not one single Russian adviser on the territory of Krajina.

On Monday afternoon [1 March] the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued an official statement, describing the London newspaper's article as "manifest disinformation." "It is a pity that this nonsense has appeared in a paper like THE OBSERVER," the statement says.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1402 GMT on 1 March adds the following: "Moscow described as 'obvious misinformation' the report carried by 'Observer', a British newspaper, that a $360 million deal on arms supplies to Serbian militias in former Yugoslavia was made in Sofia with representatives of the Russian army and foreign intelligence service. 'This report is untrue,' says a Russian Foreign Ministry statement made public in Moscow on Monday.

["The statement insists that Russia, one of the co-sponsors of Resolution 713 of the UN Security Council imposing an embargo on arms shipments to all republics of former Yugoslavia, has been faithfully observing it. What is more, it was Russia that put forward the demand that the control over observance of the embargo be tightened. The inadmissibility of keeping any side in the conflict supplied with arms, which would result in an escalation of the hostilities, has been continuously emphasized by Russia's representatives in the UN and CSCE and in talks on ending the Yugoslav conflict, the statement says.

["The Foreign Ministry has confirmed Russia's resolve to continue this course."]

International Resolutions on Yugoslavia Viewed

LD2602173693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1704 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Decisions of international forums on Yugoslavia are often unilateral and provoke "hunted down" complex of this or that conflict participant, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for International Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation Vyacheslav Bakhmin told a news conference here today.

Bakhmin is deputy head of the Russian delegation to the 49th session of the U.N. Human Rights Commission opened in early February in Geneva.

Moscow's stand is that everyone found guilty of crimes on territory of former Yugoslavia must be punished, said the diplomat. The guilt must be established only after court investigation and legally. He said they now have no right to punish this or that side in advance.

Bakhmin stressed Russia acts not from pro-Serbian but against anti-Serbian positions. The Russian diplomacy proceeds from the fact artificial division of conflict participants into "friends and enemies" is inadmissible. It is inadmissible to accuse the whole people of crimes. Only specific persons can be guilty and they must be punished. This stand has earned the liking of many session participants, he said.

However, a number of session-adopted resolutions are not well- balanced enough and have anti-Serbian character, said the official. The Russian delegation has strongly criticized specific provisions of resolutions, but it decided not to break consensus taking into account the complicated character of the Yugoslav crisis.

Another issue discussed by the session and of priority importance for Russia is the situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia, said Bakhmin. A well-balanced document is now being elaborated with representatives of the two countries with the Finnish assistance, which could be adopted during the Geneva Commission session.

At the same time, the diplomat called attention to some alarming tendencies in stands of Estonia and Latvia. Previously Tallinn and Riga rejected facts of human rights violation on their territories, but recently the Latvian foreign minister said his country "does not plan to make itself a sacrifice to Western world's democratic rules of behavior".

Asked whether Russia will insist on granting the same rights to ethnic Russians in Latvia and Estonia the natives enjoy, Bakhmin said Moscow considers it lawless

to deprive almost one third of the population in this or that republic of citizenship only because these people did not live there before 1940.

Government To Increase Sale of Arms Abroad

OW2702175393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1717 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the committee on military branches of industry, Viktor Glukhikh, reported that this year Russia intends to increase the sale of arms abroad. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday [27 February] in Moscow, he pointed out that additional funds received from the sales will help to finance the conversion program.

Glukhikh underlined that Russia enjoys the reputation of an honest state at the world arms market as it observes all U.N. Provisions which, in particular, ban to sell weapons to different "hot-spots."

Viktor Glukhikh also reconfirmed that the agreement on military- technical cooperation with Kuwait signed during the Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's visit foresees sale of the Russian weapons to this country.

Yeltsin, Kohl To Focus on International Problems

OW0103170793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their upcoming meeting the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, and the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, will focus on international problems, such as developments in former Yugoslavia, Interfax was told by a highranking member of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European department, who monitors relations with Germany.

He confirmed that the chancellor will make a stop in Moscow on his way from Seoul to Bonn on Wednesday, March 3. According to initial plans, his stop was to last slightly more than an hour. "However the length of his stay will evidently be extended, since the meeting between Yeltsin and Kohl will take place at one of the Russian president's country houses, not at the airport," the diplomat said.

Interfax learned from other sources that the meeting will be held behind closed doors, and last for 40 minutes.

The diplomat conceded that there are some differences in Moscow's and Bonn's approaches to developments in former Yugoslavia. "It's common knowledge that Germany has maintained long-standing ties with the Croats, and Russia with Serbs," he said. Nevertheless these "nuances" don't alter the main thing: both Russia and Germany stand for a political solution to the conflict.

Among the other topics to be discussed in Moscow Interfax's interviewee mentioned the G-7 summit to be held in Tokyo, and Russia's relations with the European Community. According to him, bilateral issues will hardly take much time at the upcoming meeting, because they were discussed in detail during Chancellor Kohl's visit to Moscow last December.

In an interview with Interfax, the Press Attache of the German Embassy in Moscow, Enno Barker, said that the new meeting between the leaders of the two countries testifies to the intensiveness of the German-Russian dialogue.

During the forthcoming talks Germany would like to obtain detailed information as to the internal situation in Russia, said Barker. According to him, the German public has closely followed the constitutional conflict in the Russian Federation, and therefore it is natural that the chancellor is interested in receiving a first-hand assessment of domestic developments in Russia.

Kozyrev, PLO's Abu Mazin Support UNSC Resolution 799

OW0103172393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At their meeting in Moscow on Monday [1 March] Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Boris Kolokolov, and a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, Abu Mazin, discussed "additional steps" that could be taken to resolve the "extremely complicated" problem connected with the deportation of 415 Palestinians by Israel. As Kolokolov told INTERFAX, Russia continues to favor the implementation of Resolution No. 799 issued by the UN Security Council. "There is no other way to resolve this problem," he stressed. Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, who also had a brief meeting with Abu Mazin on Monday, evaluated the situation similarly.

That was his second meeting with Abu Mazin in the past two weeks, said Kolokolov. It posed the Palestinians' answer to the meeting held in Geneva between the Russian Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, and the American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher. At the meeting Russia and the USA, as co-sponsors of the peace process in the Middle East, called for the soonest resumption of Israeli- Palestinian talks, which are a component of the entire process of negotiations.

As the Russian diplomat said, Abu Mazin reaffirmed the PLO's willingness to "cooperate in every way possible" with Russia and the USA in regard to a settlement in the

Middle East. Their conversation was held "in line with Yasir 'Arafat's message to the Russian leadership". Kolokolov refrained from revealing the essence of the message, but said, that in it the PLO confirmed its readiness to participate in the continuation of the peace process.

Kozyrev, Turkey's Cetin Discuss Yugoslav Crisis

LD0103141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—"The most important and common conclusion at which we arrived in the course of the talks is the determination, despite pressure from different extremist groups, not to let the conflict in former Yugoslavia turn into an interconfessional and interethnic conflict on the basis of a certain principle "of client's support", said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev upon completion of his talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin.

The talks focused on difficulties preventing the settlement of the conflict. "There are problems in our relations and we decided to continue talks," Kozyrev said. "There was an open, honest, friendly and constructive conversation fully in compliance with provisions of a treaty signed between our countries," he added.

Kozyrev pointed out that he was favourably impressed by Cetin's support of the Russian eight-point plan on the crisis settlement. The plan includes an appeal to all Bosnian sides to observe a truce, to cease all military activities in Croatia, it envisages the speediest approval of the Vance-Owen plan, gradual lifting of sanctions against former Yugoslavia after the Serbian side signs this plan. Russia comes out for creating U.N. multinational forces, tightening control over embargo imposed on deliveries of weapons to Bosnia, conducting a thorough investigation into war crimes and working out guarantees of human rights in Bosnia and Hercegovina laying the emphasis on the rights of national minorities.

The Turkish foreign minister said that the conflict should be resolved on the basis of peaceful means. He said Turkey shares Russia's position that the problem should be resolved on the basis of common values: inviolability of the existing border and inadmissibility of using military advantages for carrying out the policy of "ethnic cleansing." Force should not be used to give advantageous to any side, and this is the basis for cooperation in the settlement of this problem," Cetin said.

Further on Meeting

OW0103171993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkey has welcomed, though with a number of reservations, the plan for a settlement in former Yugoslavia Russia came out with recently. Turkey also supports the continued endeavors of the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, announced this in Moscow on Monday [1 March] after talks with his Turkish counterpart, Hikmet Cetin. As the present and the previous talks have shown, he said, both countries will continue their efforts to combat ethnic and religious confrontation in former Yugoslavia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and other "hot spots".

According to Kozyrev, Russia and Turkey must use their influence with a view to persuading all participants in the Yugoslav and Karabakh conflicts to search for a political and well-balanced settlement.

The Turkish foreign minister agreed with this assessment. "As the biggest and most important countries in the region", he said, Russia and Turkey display full understanding each time they meet at the negotiating table.

According to Cetin, "the greatest responsibility" in the efforts to resolve the conflicts in Karabakh and Yugoslavia lies on Moscow and Ankara. It's possible to expect from them in the near future a number of concrete initiatives aimed at gaining a settlement. He did not elaborate.

Nevertheless Cetin found it necessary to point out that it's absolutely inadmissible to agree to the borders changed as a result of using force, or to the consolidation of advantages gained as a result of military actions. In the endeavors to settle conflicts it's necessary to proceed from the principle of independence and territorial integrity, he said. In his opinion, the rest is just details.

The two foreign ministers shared the view that such conflicts as those in former Yugoslavia and Karabakh, should be settled by means of ensuring concord between people living on the same soil, not by outside pressure.

Cetin Dismisses 'Rumors' of Azeri Predisposition

OW0103182093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1701 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Turkey should share the "heavy burden" of supporting peace and stability in the Balkans, announced Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin at a

press conference in Moscow Monday [1 March]. During a one day working visit to Moscow he met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to discuss the situations in the former Yugoslavia and in Nagorno Karabakh.

Cetin said their negotiations in Moscow showed that Turkey and Russia have similar stances on the settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Hercegovina. Ankara, he said, has stressed that it will not recognize borders established by the use of force in that region.

The Turkish minister called "rumors" the claims that Ankara has definitively taken Azerbaijan's side in the Karabakh conflict. He pointed out that "the fighting in Nagorno Karabakh was begun by Armenia," and added that "the generally accepted view is that the land of Karabakh has belonged to Azerbaijan from time immemorial." The minister pointed out that Turkey is still helping to transport humanitarian aid to Armenia.

Regarding Turkey's relations to the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus, Cetin said that strengthening their ties with these states is not directed against third parties. "We do not plan to vie for spheres of influence in these regions," he said.

Cetin on Aspirations for Regional Peace

LD0103183993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Suprin]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, at a press conference held in the Russian Foreign Ministry today, described the talk with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev as very intensive, productive and useful. Cetin paid a brief working visit to Moscow within the framework of regular consultations between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Located in one georgraphical region, Russia and Turkey are as it were the centre of the region where serious political events are occurring today, Cetin noted. "At the meeting with Kozyrev, we emphasised anew that Turkey does not at all intend to conduct a dispute with anyone here for the spheres of influence. Conversely, common interests and stability are uppermost to us. We openly stated for yet another time that we do not aspire to increase the population of our countries at the expense of adjacent areas," he stressed.

On the problem of normalising relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Cetin said "preliminary preparatory measures" need to be taken to solve it and then to get vigorously involved in a peace settlement of the conflict.

"We agreed with Minister Kozyrev to hold consultative meetings on this problem as frequently as possible. Azerbaijanians are our brothers and Armenians are our neighbours with regard to whom we harbour particularly friendly feelings. Turkey will continue to lend any support to stop bloodshed and enmity between the brothers and neighbours," Cetin said. He added that Turkey will continue to pursue an "impartial" policy in this region.

As for a settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Cetin said there were not any significant differences on this issue with the Russian side from the very beginning.

At the end of the press conference, Cetin said an accord was reached with Kozyrev that restrictions on the movement of the two countries' diplomats will be lifted in Russia and Turkey.

France's Dumas To Visit Moscow 'To Coordinate' Views

OW0103172793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 01 Mar 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, and Igor Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] We often deviate from the old practice, when a visit by the foreign minister of one country or another was necessarily marked by the signing of some "epochal agreement", said Aleksey Dulian of the Russian Foreign Ministry's European Department with reference to Tuesday's [2 March] visit to Moscow by the French Foreign Minister, Roland Dumas.

Dumas will confer with his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, and meet with Deputy Premier Boris Fedorov, he said. Besides, the French foreign minister is to meet with President Boris Yeltsin. Two weeks ago the president's vacation served as a reason for delaying Roland Dumas' visit.

According to Dulian, consultations between the heads of Russian and French diplomacies are of "routine" nature. The two men will discuss bilateral cooperation and some world problems, such as developments in former Yugoslavia. "Roland Dumas' visit is designed to enable Moscow and Paris to coordinate their views on the key issues," the diplomat said. He reaffirmed Russia's desire to maintain with France the ties of partnership, and allied relations in the future.

Grachev Welcomes Visit by Danish Defense Minister

LD0103183493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1556 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The foundations of new bilateral relations in the military field could, according to Army General Pavel Grachev, be established during the official visit to Russia by Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup, which began today.

At a working meeting held in Moscow between the heads of the Russian and Danish military departments, Pavel Grachev expressed gratitude to his Danish colleague for the fact that consent to the offer of a meeting from the Russian side was given so rapidly. Hans Haekkerup took office in January and the visit to Russia is one of his first foreign trips.

Having noted that the participation of Soviet troops in the Afghan conflict and also the fact that the stances of the leadership of the former USSR and Denmark regarding the problem of the Baltic states did not fully coincide used to, in the past, cast a shadow over bilateral relations, the Russian minister voiced the hope that the development of contacts between the two countries' military departments would be one of the factors for eradicating existing imbalances.

Hans Haekkerup touched on certain matters relating to the actions of units of the armed forces of Denmark and Russia participating in the UN peacekeeping forces in the former Yugoslavia. He stressed that Russia's use of its "special ties" in the area of the conflict is promoting its settlement. "I think it is in the area of peacemaking operations that there is an opportunity to develop cooperation" between Russia and Denmark in the military field, he noted. Hans Haekkerup also voiced understanding of the problems that Russia is encountering in withdrawing its troops from the Baltic countries.

Discusses Baltic Troop Withdrawal

OW0103185093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1710 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev feels that the development of relations on a new equal and mutually beneficial basis between the Russian and Danish defense ministries will allow them to solve the problem of the presence of Russian troops in the Baltic states, which, he said, earlier presented an obstacle in relations between the two countries' military departments. Grachev espressed this opinion at a meeting Monday [1 March] in Moscow with Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup.

The time when Denmark and Russia stood in opposite camps is over, said the head of the Danish military department at their meeting. The most promising directions of collaboration between the two countries' military departments are, he believes, participation in UN peace-keeping operations and the development of "mutual activity in the Baltic Sea region."

It is impossible for sovereign states to have troops from another state on their property against their will, said Haekkerup. However, he said, Denmark "understands the problems connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states and has presented a project for building housing for the troops being withdrawn."

Rutskoy Meets Malaysian Head; Visits Aircraft Plant

LD0103193393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1656 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur March 1 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, now on a tour of south-east Asian countries, arrived here today on an official visit. On the same day, he paid a visit to Malaysia's supreme head of state Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah. During the talk the two discussed ways to develop Russian-Malaysian relations.

In the afternoon, Rutskoy visited an aircraft repair plant of the firm Airod in a Kuala Lumpur suburb and acquainted himself with its operation. Airod, which was founded in 1986, is Malaysia's head enterprise specialising in the repair and servicing of a variety of aviation technology, electronic systems and devices.

Welcoming Rutskoy, Airod board chairman Nasruddin Bahri said the firm was strongly interested in developing cooperation with Russia and setting up joint ventures.

In the opinion of Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev, who accompanies Rutskoy, this cooperation is quite real. The firm Airod is a structure that is capable of cooperating with Russia in this area, Rutskoy told ITAR-TASS. It gained international repute, enjoys trust and is prepared to help promote our aviation industry output in this part of the world.

Rutskoy will stay in Malaysia for three days after which he will visit New Zealand and Singapore.

Meets Prime Minister

LD0203095093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur March 2 TASS—Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, currently here on an official visit, held talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Mahathir bin Mohamad on Tuesday.

Addressing journalists at the close of the meeting, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi described the talks as "very successful". Main emphasis at the talks was laid on the development of trade-and-economic cooperation between the two countries, Mr. Badawi said.

There are ample opportunities to stimulate and broaden bilateral economic contacts. Malaysian-Russian relations are no longer prone to ideological restrictions, Mr. Badawi said.

Russia possesses modern technology and resources that are of interest to Malaysia. For its part, Russia visualises

opportunities in Malaysia for the establishment of joint ventures, in the field of the aerospace industry, in particular.

A possible deal with the purchase of a consignment of MiG-29 jet fighters and the manufacture of some spare parts for them in Malaysia was discussed in detail during the talks, the Malaysian minister said.

The Russian delegation made a number of specific proposals in connection with the deal. Besides, they suggested selling air- cushion vessels, high-speed boats, heavy-duty tractors, and other machinery. The Malaysian government intends to consider the proposals and discuss them subsequently with Sergey Glazyev, Russian minister for foreign economic relations.

The prime minister of Malaysia invited Russia to participate in the forthcoming international arms exhibition, to be held in Kuala Lumpur in December this year. Mahathir bin Mohamad also suggested that a week-long Russian festival be held in Malaysia for the Russian Federation to be able to display its products, particularly export-oriented ones, since the Malaysian business community is still very little informed about Russia's export resources.

The head of the Malaysian government accepted with gratitude an invitation conveyed to him from President Boris Yeltsin to pay an official visit to Russia. A date for the visit is to be fixed later.

Thai Air Force Denies Plans To Buy MiG-29's

LD2602121493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0827 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zatsepin]

[Text] Bangkok February 26 TASS—The Thai Air Force will not buy MiG-29 fighters from Russia, newspaper BANGKOK POST quoted Air Force Chief of Staff Samat Sotsathit as saying.

The Thai Air Force is armed with F-16 and does not plan any additional purchases.

Sotsathit made this statement after the same newspaper reported a few days ago that the Thai ambassador in Moscow was offered MiG-29s during a visit to a plant in Nizhny Novgorod (formerly Gorky).

According to the newspaper, the chief of staff said that Thailand was not interested in buying Russian fighters although Malaysia was currently negotiating such a deal with Moscow.

Yeltsin Greets ROK's Kim Yong-sam on Inauguration

SK2702091893 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Feb 93

[From "Today's World" program]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a congratulatory message to ROK President Kim Yong-sam, who was inaugurated today as president. In his message, the Russian leader said: He expects that complementary and friendly relations between Russia and the ROK can be continuously developed.

Station commentator (Vladimir Kurilif) writes: In a grand ceremony held today in Seoul, Kim Yong-sam was inaugurated as the new ROK president. For the first time, a civilian was inaugurated as head of the country for the first time in 30 years. Figures from the military leadership have occupied the presidential post up to present.

Kim Yong-sam is 65 years old. He graduated from Seoul National University. He received the title of doctor of philosophy. When he was 25 years old, he was elected as a parliamentarian for the first time. At that time, he was the youngest parliamentarian in the country.

Kim Yong-sam, who led the dissident forces for a long time, was inaugurated today as the ROK president to serve in the presidency's 14th term. He took a presidential oath in front of tens of thousands of people who crowded into a plaza in front of the National Assembly building. He promised to open the new era of democracy for the country. He confirmed that he will revitalize the national spirit, and that he will rightly establish the social morality and order.

New ROK President Kim Yong-sam has attached great significance to the development of relations with other countries, including the countries surrounding the Korean peninsula.

Regarding this, I would like to point out Boris Yeltsin's visit to the ROK some time ago. The cold war, which had been continued for decades, could not allow the normalization of relations between Moscow and Seoul. After establishing diplomatic relations, they could practically promote their relations in various fields.

Boris Yeltsin's Seoul visit has promoted cooperation between Moscow and Seoul at a higher level. When he was in Seoul, he signed many documents that will advance Moscow-ROK relations. The main document is the treaty of basic relations between the Russian Federation and the ROK. This document promises the development of new relations between the two countries, and points out that their bilateral relations are to be favorably developed.

This treaty is complementary. It hopes for equal cooperation between them. It will not block [word indistinct].

Concerning the situation on the Korean peninsula, President Boris Yeltsin said: Russia hopes that the Korean peninsula will become a single state, a peace-loving democratic state, a prosperous unified state without nuclear weapons, and a reliable partner.

In stressing detente on the Korean peninsula, President Kim Yong- sam promised that he will make every effort

to realize national reunification, a historical mission of the Korean nation. Regarding this, ROK President Kim Yong-sam has appealed to DPRK President Kim Il-song to cooperate with him. He also said that he has the intention to meet DPRK President Kim Il-song at any time and at any place.

The new ROK president stressed: The future of the Korean peninsula should be discussed in the place where we meet. I am confident that we, as the Korean nation, can solve among ourselves the problem that causes our division.

After attending the inauguration ceremony which was also attended by former presidents including No Tae-u and Chon Tu-hwan, President Kim Yong-sam left for the Blue House [presidential residence].

Kim Yong-sam and his wife Son Myong-sun entered the residence where they will live for five years while listening to the song "Moving forward and forward" sung by a student chorus. The ROK presidential term is five years. The ROK Constitution prohibits the reelection of the president. Therefore, Kim Yong-sam will stay in the Blue House for five years.

Spokesman Calls Latvian Statements 'Unfriendly'

OW0203121493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1149 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry has described recent statements by some Latvian officials unfriendly and irresponsible. A document issued on Tuesday [2 March] specifies that in his speeches abroad Foreign Minister Georg Andreyev accused Russia of continuing "de facto colonization and Russification of Latvia and Estonia, fanning the hostility of the Russian minority to Latvian independence to prepare a new annexation of the republic".

The spokesman also described as incorrect the declarations of Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis and his deputy Pavlovskis published in the Finnish Helsingin Sanomat newspaper that "at the talks the Russians do not want to recognize Latvian independence in any field" and that "with the beginning of a possible crisis the Russians have everything ready to occupy the capital of Latvia".

The document accounts [as received] the statements by Latvian officials to political realities such as the coming parliamentary elections and attempts to blame "the aggressive neighbor" for all the difficulties and problems, primarily in economy.

The document expresses hope that short-term considerations will not be placed above the task of strengthening understanding between the two countries.

Stankevich Views Russia's Place in World

PM0203090693 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Sergey Stankevich, adviser to the Russian Federation president: "Russia Has Its Place in the World"]

[Text] We have not yet fully recognized the scale of the changes currently taking place in the world. Indeed, with the ending of the cold war the entire edifice of the world order was robbed of its foundations. The whole system of relations between states that had grown up over the decades has changed. There used to be two camps confronting each other in global rivalry, and nearly every country in the world was drawn in one way or another into the force field of this rivalry. Indeed, the global standoff dominated not only international politics, but also the economy, culture, ideology, and the state structure of the countries that were drawn into this confrontation. The postwar world system has now collapsed (although some relics of it remain) and a world order of a new configuration is emerging. A great many opportunities have suddenly opened up for the formation of new centers of power and the emergence of new regional and global groupings.

For the United States, the ending of the cold war was followed by a period of euphoria when it considered itself the victor. There were persistent claims that only one superpower remained and the world had become unipolar. Moreover it was claimed that a single stream of civilization had formed—the stream of liberal capitalism, and that it had sucked in all countries and regions. And so the "end of history" had arrived. The idea of the "end of history" brought together a whole range of ideas: the triumph of the ideas of liberal capitalism, a unipolar world structure with a superpower at its head, and the departure of nation states into the past, since all problems and means of resolving them had become transnational.

However, subsequent events, far from confirming, largely refuted the liberal America-centric picture of the world. Even in the military-strategic sphere the momentous change in the balance of forces did not happen. Moreover military strength is no longer seen as the main sign of a great power. The foremost indicators are those relating to economic stability, the long-term dynamics of economic development, technological supremacy, and the position on world commodity markets. And here the prospects are far from cloudless both for the United States and for that other traditional center of power, Europe. The United States is currently trying to overcome a prolonged period of economic difficulties, and its predicted growth in GNP is on the order of 2 percent. In Europe the growth in GNP is also predicted at the 2-percent level. The world's only dynamically developing region is Southeast Asia: In recent years the average annual growth rate has been 7 percent. The region is strengthening its positions steadily, stubbornly, and energetically, and many commodity flows are confined within the region itself, that is to say, they trade with one another, shrugging off the former dangerous

dependence on controlled world markets. The Southeast Asian countries make use of many advantages related to the interaction of the state with the economy. This is an important difference between them and the Western economic model, since the classical American doctrine and also, in the main, the Anglo-Saxon one both put very strict limits on the state's role in the economy, professing a consistent line of antistatism. The European economic doctrine envisages slightly more state intervention in the economy and more social responsibility on the part of the state, but here too there are clear restrictions. But the "Asian dragons," unabashed, demonstrate cogently that intelligent interaction between the state and the economy holds enormous potential, which they are exploiting. One convincing illustration is provided by China: According to predictions, the rate of growth of GNP this year will be 10 percent. I think the map of the world will now depend largely on the extent to which China can preserve its present economic dynamic and add to this the necessary state and political reforms.

Today we are seeing the emergence, instead of a unipolar world, of geopolitical nexuses. First, there is the North American geopolitical nexus, based on the free trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico (in future the United States would like to extend this agreement to South America too). The agreement's significance goes far beyond the framework of purely economic relations.

A European geopolitical nexus is being formed on the basis of Maastricht. But as the Maastricht process develops, an interesting trend is emerging increasingly strongly: It is proving difficult to leave behind the nation state. As the integration process develops, there is increasingly marked concern among the main political forces about how to preserve the basic principles of the nation state. Germany's role in the European process is becoming increasingly influential. A colossus has formed, with a combined economic potential that will soon overcome the colossal excess of tension generated by the rapid integration of the economy of the former GDR. The German economy is highly organized and balanced. It is a very patriotic economy. In this connection I recall the recent polemics with one of our own entrepreneurs, also a politician, who asserted that "patriotism in the economy is stupid." In reality all the world's leading economies are very patriotic, most of all Germany's, Japan's, and Korea's. The coordination of interests between leading financial and economic groupings and the state takes place on a daily and intensive basis, they help each other out, and obtain great advantages as a result.

Apart from the European and North American geopolitical nexuses, it is now possible to speak of a geopolitical nexus in Southeast Asia which has already taken shape. Plans have appeared for the formation of a common market for Southeast Asia and its further integration on the European model. But Southeast Asia's political leaders are cautious about plans of this kind and do not intend to sacrifice the idea of the nation state. There is growing competition between China and Japan for the role of region-forming center in the Asian-Pacific region. The eastern strategists' boldest plans include in their sphere of economic interests North Asia—the Far Eastern oblasts of Russia. The United States is observing this contest increasingly keenly, having no intention of abandoning its role as leading Pacific power.

The three abovementioned geopolitical nexuses have already taken shape, but the map of the world does not end there. There are several more potential geopolitical nexuses which are at the development stage. If you look at South Asia, you could say that the countries of that region have not yet "woken up." Unfortunately, India has to some extent lost the dynamic of reform, but it will undoubtedly gather pace again after an interval. Pakistan also has very considerable potential.

Turkey's attempts to form a geopolitical nexus on the basis of the Central Asian republics of the former USSR are noteworthy. But despite active Turkish economic and cultural expansion, the question of the dominant power is far from resolved. Kazakhstan indirectly put in its own claim to the role of region-forming leader by proposing a Central Asian association. Here Turkmenia's stance is very interesting: it occupies a location equidistant from all sides and adheres to a policy of "positive neutrality" and reliance on its own efforts. A great many arrogant plans aimed at forming a Central Asian nexus could collide with this wall, which is small but very conscious of its own autonomy.

The Arab East is also "waking up," trying to find a new role in the world. The Arabs are seeking to establish direct contacts with the postcommunist world, and in particular to put an end to the practice of using Europe as an intermediary in trade with us. The Arab East has every chance of becoming an adequate consolidating center of power.

And last, the southern African geopolitical nexus is taking shape. Something like 10 countries in southern Africa have decided to form a common economic area, with the subsequent inclusion of the Republic of South Africa.

Furthermore it must be noted that if we are talking about the prospects for integration by South American countries into the North American geopolitical nexus, these prospects are not entirely clear. Argentina could lay claim to the role of regional leader, having developed dynamically in recent years and resolved many of its own problems.

The process of region-formation and the development of geopolitical nexuses creates a force field affecting the states of the former communist bloc. The question arises of where Russia and the other states that have done away with totalitarianism will go. Many people are calling for Russia to take steps toward the speediest integration into the Western community, without taking account of the fact that that community's nature is becoming less clear than before. The reply to that is as follows. Only something that is already established, with a definite qualitative nature, can integrate into something else without disastrous consequences. Then it is possible to act as a partner. Only a

state that has established its own main principles, recognized its own interests, and developed all the necessary attributes of statehood, and which has an organized domestic market, can integrate. It will then be possible to make your own choice concerning with whom, to what degree, and on what terms to integrate. In our present condition we can only be integrated as some kind of area over which patronage and supervision must be established. As some kind of subject of limited capability which represents a danger to its neighbors. In this context it seems to me that we should not consent to that role and push through integration at all costs. First we must put down our own roots, become a power, create a national market, and only then raise the question of integration. This does not presuppose some kind of isolation, but it is no use hurrying to fetter ourselves with far-reaching commitments of some kind or to fix our position firmly within structures which we ourselves are not yet used to. The main emphasis should be on identifying and formulating our own national interests and priorities.

Russia—provided that it renounces territorial expansion, puts the emphasis on economic, technological, and cultural progress and the accelerated development of its classical potential in connection with, among other things, the aerospace and fuel and energy complexes, and makes use of its financial potential and the natural persistence of established trading ties—has all the prerequisites to become a locomotive in its own right and take leading positions in the post-Soviet and postcommunist world. And, from those positions, to conduct a dialogue with the other geopolitical nexuses. This task is very much within Russia's powers provided we do not become befuddled with false goals or allow destructive strategic principles to be imposed.

The maximum freedom of choice must be preserved until such time as we have defined our priorities and interests, our view of the world. Our policy should not be "Eurocentric" or "America-centric," but "Russia-centric." It is very important to preserve the peculiarities of one's own type of civilization. We cannot, after all, be categorized as belonging to either the European or the Asian type of civilization. Yes, we are biased more in the direction of Europe. But we cannot undergo integration, in the sense of a "merger," with Europe, because we "carry Asia within us."

On studying the various versions of the concept of Russia's foreign policy, you notice the continuing strength of inertia thinking, which prevents our analysts from considering the many new realities of the modern world. But on the subject of the Foreign Ministry concept, certain positive developments must be noted. Compared with the way things sounded in early 1992, a considerable evolution can be observed. First, there is more balance, more consideration of the opportunities associated with our southern and eastern neighbors. The policy is more clearly outlined in nearby foreign countries, although unfortunately there is still no long-term practical policy with regard to those countries. Yet here every month is worth several years. There has also been progress on a question that could prove fatal to Russia—that of the fate of our 25 million compatriots in the nearby foreign countries. These are changes in the right direction, though this is by no means always reflected in practice. I think this is only a working outline of the concept. It needs to be thoroughly finalized, primarily from the viewpoint of long-term strategy. We should not shrink from setting more specific goals for the state and declaring our spheres of interest. The concept contains nothing of this kind, and I hope the omission is purely for tactical reasons.

The British like to say that Britain "has no eternal friends or eternal enemies, only eternal interests." To some extent this is also true of Russia, but only to some extent. This is the classical utterance of the leader of a state built on the principles of all-permeating rationalism and pragmatism. Russia is not built on those principles, and Russian society has a different sense of itself. And therefore it is by no means only pragmatic principles that dictate Russia's foreign policy course. I advocate that pragmatism should always be one of the fundamental principles in identifying friends and allies, but all the same Russia has never been without a degree of idealism, and never will be. Such considerations as justice, historical and cultural proximity, and traditions, a kind of historic brotherhood, are far more significant for Russia's people than for other peoples. Therefore a proportion of healthy idealism will be present in our sense of self, our world outlook, and our foreign policy thinking.

Russia will without fail support confederative trends within the framework of the CIS. But here it is very important not to be importunate. Many of our partners have not yet passed through the period of intoxication, so to speak, with complete autonomy and independence. Although realism and common sense are steadily increasing, I find it hard to understand why we attach so much importance to collective meetings of CIS leaders. The benefit from these meetings is not very great, while many of the accords reached in this way are not observed. This happens because at such meetings, in the attempt to achieve the greatest possible degree of consensus, they depart from the fundamental issues. The field of possible consensus is becoming extremely narrow. Russia is perceived as some kind of imperial center, and there is a syndrome of unity among the republics in their complaints against Russia. Thus we find ourselves on the defensive. Far greater potential lies in the energetic use of bilateral contacts on the basis of the general treaty foundation formulated within the framework of the Commonwealth. In this way Russia could strengthen the still far from stable Commonwealth.

What has happened in recent years was of course a great tragedy in cultural and human terms. But I think the geopolitical defeat of Russia, the devastating lowering of its status in the world, has not happened. This is not a catastrophe, only a historical intermission. Russia is entirely capable of getting back on its feet rapidly. To this end it must concentrate and redistribute its resources and make a real strategic breakthrough. It must organize itself, become a power. A power [derzhava] is more than a state,

which is simply a machine. A power is a state plus values and strategy which the state seeks to pursue in its activity.

Moscow Signs Space Accord With Germany

LD0103231193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1826 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Bonn, 1 March (ITAR-TASS)—Russia and Germany intend to develop cooperation in space exploration. Today Wolfgang Wild, general director of the German National Agency for Aerospace, and Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency, signed an agreement on the study of space and its use for peaceful purposes.

A representative of the German Ministry for Scientific Research and Technology stated in Bonn today that the creation and testing of the "Ekspress" automated descent vehicle will be the first joint Russian-German project. Japan will also take part in the project, by supplying a carrier rocket.

It is planned to launch the "Ekspress" vehicle into near-Earth orbit in 1994. After a week-long flight in space it should return to Earth and descend by parachute in Australia.

The German side will spend 35 million marks on participation in this program.

Gasprom To Continue Supplies to Ukraine While Talks Last

OW0103143893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the central control room of the Gasprom concern, as of the morning of March 1 Russian gas is being pumped into Ukraine in usual amounts, Nikolay Bely, head of the Gasprom foreign relations unit, told Interfax. He said that gas supply to Ukraine will be on the agenda of the meeting in Surgut (Tyumen Region, Western Siberia) of prime-ministers of former USSR's republics who will discuss problems facing the fuel and energy industries.

Bely also said that Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of the Gasprom Board, had left for Surgut the day before. "Negotiations on the Ukrainian- Russian gas conflict will start in Tyumen and continued in Moscow. As long as they last Gasprom will not take any unilateral steps," he said.

Vyakhirev had said earlier that Gasprom would stop the pumping on February 25 because the Ukrainian consumers owed the concern an estimated 165 billion rubles. The deadline had later been put off until February 28 but in the light of the Surgut talks Gasprom changed its position.

Mercenaries, Volunteers Fight in Ethnic Conflicts

MK2502105493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 9, 28 Feb 93 p A12

[Vladimir Gubarev article: "Geese, Geese..."]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The following figures were cited at a conference entitled "The Army in Post-Totalitarian Society" that was held in Moscow on 20 and 21 February. Up to 30,000 mercenaries and volunteers have been taking part in local ethnic wars since 1990 on various sides. Up to 2,000 people have taken part in conflicts on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The geographic area of demand for mercenaries and volunteers is gradually growing, from the CIS to Africa and Latin America. There is now nothing to stop former military advisers and experts from signing contracts on their own behalf.

It is quite easy to enlist the services of mercenaries from among former Soviet Army servicemen. At least 10 percent of junior and middle-ranking officers of the former Soviet Army are ready to offer their services for money. In particular demand are pilots, snipers, and specialists in communications, guidance, tracking, control, and air defense systems. [passage omitted]

In 1989, the UN General Assembly by consensus adopted a convention on combating the recruitment, training, employment, and financing of mercenaries. Russia will accede to this anti-mercenary convention soon, but it is unlikely to yield any practical results. Too much depends on Russia's CIS partners: It is virtually impossible to control recruitment from the territories of its sovereign neighbors if the latter do not care. Therefore, volunteers from Russia will for the foreseeable future still be meeting with their fellow citizens on the front lines, as has already happened in Abkhazia and Yugoslavia.

Nechayev Holds Trade Talks With Dutch Officials

LD2702101393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[Text] The Hague February 27 TASS—Problems of widening Russian-Dutch cooperation were the focus of attention during a meeting here on Friday between Dutch Prime Minister Rudolph Lubbers and Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev.

Nechayev arrived here to attend a "Netherlands-Russia" conference which has been organised by the Russian Embassy and Trade Mission, the Dutch Economics Ministry, the Dutch Trade Promotion Centre, and the Amsterdam and Rotterdam chambers of commerce.

Apart from general problems, the question of western technical assistance, including that from Holland, with a view to developing the banking and credit-and-financial systems in the Russian Federation was discussed during

the meeting with the Dutch prime minister, Nechayev told ITAR-TASS. Support in establishing financial institutions, which would contribute to drawing foreign investments, was touched upon in particular, he added.

The two sides expressed mutual interest in a further development of mutually beneficial bilateral contacts. Nechayev had a more specific discussion on the subject during a meeting with his Dutch counterpart, Jakobus Andriessen.

The two ministers arrived at a conclusion that the energy sector is the most effective area for the intensification of cooperation. In this connection they decided to set up a joint working group who are to examine specific possibilities for Dutch investments in this branch of the Russian economy. It is primarily private capital that is meant to be attracted in this case. However, it is important to create a system of state support for such investments, the two sides pointed out during the talks.

Conflict With Argentina Over Russian Trawler

PM0103125193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 93 p 5

[S. Zavorotnyy report: "Direct Fire—on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For One and a Half Hours Patrol Boat Fires on Russian Ship"]

[Text] Buenos Aires—Last Friday evening an Argentine patrol boat in international waters fired point-blank on Kozyrev's spineless diplomacy. It carried out a precision strike against all those politicians who forgot that in life it is always the weak who get hurt, and even more so in politics. No, the bullets did not reach Smolenskaya Square. The sound of the ordinance salvos shaking the plates of our fishing vessel, the Orel, did not disturb the quiet of the Foreign Ministry's offices. For one-and-a-half hours the patrol boat methodically bombarded the ship from Kaliningrad. By a lucky accident there was no loss of life.

So what happened three miles off the border of Argentina's maritime economic zone? Why did the Argentine authorities prefer to embark on the road of exacerbating the conflict, rather than of seeking a mutual compromise? According to the version of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the local patrol boat caught our fishing vessel fishing illegally in its economic zone. This happens quite often in Argentina's 200-mile maritime space, which is rich in fish and squid. Local patrol boats are tired of pursuing offenders from Spain, Japan, Poland, and Korea. They have had a go at us too. However, this is the first time that a fishing vessel has been fired on, and in such a provocative manner as well. As a rule, an offender who is caught red-handed is left with nothing to do but set sail for the nearest local port, where the ship's owner has to pay a fine for illegal fishing. On this occasion, if we are to believe the diplomatic protest note from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs handed to the Russian Embassy in Buenos Aires, our boat rebelled and refused to obey the order to proceed into the port of Bahia Blanca. After almost a week's persuasion, the Argentine authorities decided to use force—to fire on the engine room and the captain's cabin.

However, the Russian Embassy in Argentina described many of the facts contained in the Argentine diplomatic protest note as inaccurate. According to embassy information, the Orel was in international waters, and at the moment it was detained was not engaged in fishing. Officials of the Argentine naval police were able to satisfy themselves of this. When they boarded the ship, they found no proof. To find such evidence would not have been difficult: The vessel catches fish by means of a trawl, which cannot be withdrawn from the water and hidden momentarily. In addition, according to the data of "Orla," the Japanese navigational apparatus which fixes the position of ships by satellite, the ship was not in Argentina's economic zone. As for the Argentine patrol boats, their outmoded apparatus as a rule determines the location of ships with a 20-km margin of error on either side. All this did not prevent the Argentines from insisting on arresting the ship. The Russian captain refused to submit to the Argentines.

Our correspondent was told by Aleksey Zinchenko, a representative of the Russian Fisheries Committee in Argentina, that a representative of the naval police admitted that the Argentines have no proof that the Orel was engaged in illegal fishing. The courts refused to sanction our fishing vessel being escorted into the local port by force.

"The Argentines' decision to remove the Russian captain from his post and appoint the executive officer in his stead added fuel to the flames," Zinchenko says. "The captain refused to obey, and then they withdrew their people and cold-bloodedly and at point-blank range fired on our ship."

Argentine warships were already proceeding with all speed to the scene of the conflict, intending to use their missiles if the fishing boat did not obey the order to put into the Argentine port.

"Fearing for the life of our men, we summoned eight fishing vessels to the scene of the conflict, in case the Argentines really decided to sink our boat," Zinchenko continued his account.

There are many riddles in this dramatic story. Why, for example, did the Argentine side need to fan the conflict right on the eve of talks between Russia and Argentina on a new fishing agreement? It is being said that the local military will not be slow to take advantage of this incident in order to wring new subsidies from the government in order to acquire more up-to-date navigational equipment for their patrol boats. But the Russian Foreign Ministry's position turned out to be the most surprising thing in the conflict over our ship. In reply to the shots against our citizens, our own Foreign Ministry preferred to wash its hands and limit itself to a statement to the Argentine side.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Addresses Democratic Choice Alliance

LD0203115193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—"One of the most difficult periods in the post-war history has probably begun for Russia now, the economic crisis has overlapped the political and constitutional crises", the Russian president said today in his speech at a meeting with representatives of parties, organisations, movements, associations and parliament factions brought together by the Democratic Choice Alliance. The president stressed that "conservative forces can be expected to come to power through the congress, and these conservative forces will seek a full-scale retreat from reforms". According to Boris Yeltsin "this is a violation of the democratic principles which the democratic movement has gained".

"The choice for the president in this situation is far from simple," Boris Yeltsin said. He stressed that in this situation he has to hold political consultations with organisations, associations and political parties. "Democrats alone will not be able to pull this heavy cart", the president said. Yeltsin pointed out that in his consultations he will gravitate towards forces close to the centre and disregard the ultra-right and the ultra-left wings.

The president said he had no confidence that the Congress of People's Deputies will handle only one question about the referendum, as agreed with Congress Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov. Yeltsin did not rule out that other items may be included in the agenda of the congress, among which "the most frightful, which we must not permit".

The president said that he had prepared three "specific questions" for the referendum, which the parliament will certainly reject. They will be offered for the referendum as alternative questions and the people will have to express their attitude to them.

If the congress votes against holding the referendum, a constitutional accord will be needed, the president continued. In this accord, "we want to return to the version of the constitution as it was in April 1992".

"I vowed no allegiance to the constitution with the amendments made by the sixth and the seventh congresses, which fully destroyed the balance of powers and ushered in the omnipotence of soviets (councils)", the president said.

"We will not allow the omnipotence of the soviets, we favour a civilised way of development and an equal balance of all branches of power", he said. Yeltsin stressed that "if a constitutional accord is reached at the congress, it will create a way out of the constitutional and political impasse".

If no accord is approved by the congress, "the president has something else in store", Yeltsin said. "I think it will be necessary for the president to appeal to the people and conduct a public opinion poll among all voters", Boris Yeltsin said.

"But there is one last variant, about which I do not want to speak", the president said. "I do not think the matters will go that far and I would not like to see them go so far: The constitution must be respected. But if the conservatives take extreme measures to destroy Russia, other ways will have to sought for the sake of its rescue, for the sake of saving democracy and reforms," Yeltsin stressed.

To Use All Options To Reach Compromise

LD0203121893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1127 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 2 Mar—Boris Yeltsin said today that the forthcoming Congress of Russian People's Deputies could fail to adopt a decision on holding a referendum or a constitutional agreement.

Answering journalists' questions at the conclusion of a meeting with representatives of the "Democratic Choice" bloc at the President Hotel in Moscow, he said that if this indeed is the outcome of the Congress, "I will appeal to the people through a public opinion survey." This survey will be conducted on the same three presidential questions intended for the referendum, "which I shall announce and forward to the Supreme Soviet in a couple of days" in order to establish "whom the people support and how, and the manner in which we should proceed henceforth."

Boris Yeltsin stressed that he is preparing for the Congress "in a responsible fashion", because "we must not come away from this Congress emptyhanded." The president believes that the results of the Congress will be pointers to "all subsequent political events" in Russia.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, informed an ITAR-TASS correspondent that, in summing up the results of the meeting, Boris Yeltsin "softened his stance" on his possible options. The president said that he is exploiting "all possibilities, all legal options to reach a compromise and to achieve a peaceful agreement."

Vyacheslav Kostikov said that "conservative forces must think about what they are pushing the Russian president into. After all, the entire responsibility for the consequences will rest with them."

Warns of 'Extreme Steps' To Save Country

OW0203095993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0940 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a Moscow conference of political parties and movements belonging to the Democratic Choice alliance on Tuesday President Boris Yeltsin called the current period of the country's history the most difficult one since the war. "We have a combination of three crises: economic, political and constitutional. This signifies the possibility of conservative forces coming to power through the Congress (of People's Deputies)", the president said.

If a way out of the blind alley is not found at the Congress and its [as received] resolution fully emaciates the draft of the constitutional agreement proposed by the president or renounces the referendum, the president has the right to appeal to the nation. Let the people say whom they choose to follow, Yeltsin said.

According to the president, he has "the last option" at his disposal. "I think that things will not go that far. I am convinced the constitution must be respected. But if forces that can destroy Russia come (to power), extreme steps will have to be taken to save the country, to save reforms and democracy", Boris Yeltsin emphasized.

Says People's Deputies To Meet 10 Mar

LD0203093893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow March 2 TASS—"If the conservatives decide to take extreme measures to destroy Russia, for the sake of its rescue and to save democracy and reforms, the Russian president has his last variant" to resolve the present constitutional and political crisis, the Russian president said during his meeting with representatives of parties, organisations, movements, associations and parliamentary factions brought together in the Democratic Choice Alliance.

Without disclosing the essence of his version of the solution, Boris Yeltsin said that he "would not like to see the matters go so far. It is necessary to respect the constitution".

In his fifteen-minutes speech the Russian president set out a pattern of actions ahead of the Congress of People's Deputies of Russia, which, according to him, will meet on March 10.

Seeks Way Out of Crisis

OW0203100493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0940 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin meets on Tuesday [2 March] with representatives of the Democratic Choice political bloc. The goal of such meetings with political parties, organizations, and leaders, said the president in an interview with the newspaper Pravda, is "to find a way out of the political, or, as it is called, constitutional crisis which has arisen." In response to a Pravda correspondent's question as to whether his speech before the Civic Union bloc could be seen as a fundamental change in the country's political course, Yeltsin agreed that it "was, of course, a change." He said that he was seriously reconsidering the role of Civic Union.

Speaking on his attitude toward the Communist Party, Yeltsin voiced thoughts regarding its "split into two parts." One, he called the "orthodox," the other "more sober, with sensible ideas." According to Yeltsin, he and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy believe that "the latter might be included in Civic Union."

"We believe that the Communists should be treated with respect, as any other political party or social movement. On the other hand, we expect the same treatment," said the president.

Further on Yeltsin's Civic Union Address

Yeltsin Seeks Accord With Opposition

PM0103220593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Interview with President Boris Yeltsin by political observer V. Slavin at the House of Unions, Moscow, during recess of the "Civic Union" forum held 28 February 1993: "Boris Yeltsin Seeks Accord With the Opposition"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's speech at the "Civic Union" forum last Sunday [28 February] was a sensation of a sort. He said that the celebrations of 23 February had shown that society is split in two. In his opinion, in order to prevent the explosion of a "counter-revolution," it is necessary to seek a general accord. In this connection he proposed to all Russia's main political forces a "partnership," "dialogue," and the holding of "round" and "square" tables. With the aim of averting a constitutional crisis he called on parliament to adopt a law on power which stipulates the rights and obligations of all its branches. During a recess of the forum's session the president gave an interview to PRAVDA's political observer, V. Slavin.

[Slavin] Boris Nikolayevich, in view of the extraordinary nature of your speech, allow me to interview you for PRAVDA. If you remember, I interviewed you last spring, when our paper was closed.

[Yeltsin] I know, and I remember you. I know also that PRAVDA continues to criticize me shamelessly. You shouldn't do that.

[Slavin] That is not always the case. We desire criticism of politicians to be well considered, as befits a serious opposition newspaper.

[Yeltsin] In recent times—yes. So what questions do you have for me?

[Slavin] Several. The first is as follows: Can your speech today be seen as a fundamental change in the political course of the country?

[Yeltsin] My very appearance at the "Civic Union" forum suggests that I am seriously reevaluating the "Civic Union's" role, and I intend (as I said in my speech) to hold a dialogue with it, since it unites large political forces. To hold a dialogue in order to find a way out of the political—as it is being called—or constitutional crisis that has arisen at the present time. So that this is, of course, a shift of position [povorot]. On the whole, I agree that there is a shift of position here.

[Slavin] Does this mean that with the aid of the dialogue or round table which you intend to hold....

[Yeltsin] Dialogue! A round table is not necessary.

[Slavin] Does this mean that the radical opposition will also be involved in the dialogue?

[Yeltsin] Well...separately. Right now I want to meet with the "Civic Union"—it has 10 organizations: parties, social organizations, and so forth. Next, "Democratic Choice;" I am meeting with them. Then I am meeting with the leaders of all parliamentary factions. That is to say, as many of such meetings as possible with the political parties, organizations, leaders, and so forth of various tendencies, excluding fascist ones. After all, there are intelligent people. Together we can find some way out of this difficult position.

[Slavin] Another question. I was and I remain a communist, so I am interested: Does your new policy shift mean that the communists, as in any civilized country, can count on a positive attitude toward them on the part of the authorities, and that such labels as "red-brown" and the like will soon be history?

[Yelstin] Yes! You understand, right now the communists have, as it were, split in two. One half is still squeezing itself ortho-do-xically [hyphenation as published], while the other half is more sober, more, I would say, commonsensical. Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy and I are of the same opinion: The latter could join the "Civic Union." Of course, it would be treated exactly the same as the other parties.

[Slavin] I am thinking above all of rank-and-file communists, including war and labor veterans, who saved the world from the brownshirted plague of fascism. They write to PRAVDA that they are deeply wounded and offended by the "red-brown" label. What is your attitude toward this?

[Yeltsin] But after all, that was a long time ago. This has not been spoken or written about for a long time now.

[Slavin] If I understood you correctly, it is possible to draw a line under this?

[Yeltsin] We believe that communists should be treated with respect, like any other party or social movement. And we should work with it. On the other hand, we expect reciprocity, so that there is no opposition to the reforms, especially at the local level. This is very important. Yet all the same, communists do sometimes oppose the implementation of the reforms.

[Slavin] Not all: Communists are for reforms, but reforms in the interests of the working people.

[Yeltsin] Not all, not all, of course—some of them. Well, that is all. Thank you.

[Slavin] Thank you too for talking to me [interview ends].

The conversation with the Russian president took place in the break room behind the stage of the Hall of Columns in the House of Unions. After the recess, he did not return to the hall, so that he did not happen to hear the speeches of various Russian regional representatives demanding a halt to the impoverishment of the people and the ruination of the country.

I thought: Each shift of the president's policy is accompanied by promises of a better life. This time too the president spoke of the "recovery" of society. His promises instill hope in millions of people. True, less and less so in recent times. Are their hopes to be justified this time?

Yes, if the president does indeed resolve to count on intelligent and sober-minded politicians who see the true woes and interests of the people. Yes, if he ends the confrontation with the representative power and finds a common language with the opposition, including the communist opposition. No, if he continues to listen to those who imagine "enemies of the people and democracy" everywhere, who speak about Russia as "this country," who see the workers as "lumpen" and the real lumpen (speculators and mafiosi) as the lords and masters of society.

Boris Yeltsin's desire to find accord with the opposition will not be interpreted uniformly: Some will see it as a political maneuver, others as a sober recognition of necessity. I would like Russia's prospects not to depend on the political passions of the moment, for its future to be defined by the collective reason of the people—of its best and most worthy representatives.

Kostikov Notes Yeltsin's 'Stabilizing' Influence

OW0103142393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1401 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Sunday [28 February] convention of the Civic Union in Moscow has confirmed the growing belief that Russia's President is today the most reliable stabilizing factor in the country, Vyacheslav Kostikov, the presidential press secretary told Interfax on Monday. He noted that society would benefit from "a solid centering potential of the Civic Union allying with a powerful stabilizing factor which the president is." Boris Yeltsin's address at the Civic Union convention was seen by the public as a concrete step made by the president towards consolidation and a dialog. On the other hand, some delegates voiced criticism of the president and rejection of his course. Asked by Interfax how he reconciles this inconsistency, Kostikov said: "The Civic Union convention has confirmed the depth of political divisions in society. It showed that profound internal conflicts were characteristic even of that moderate movement. In essence, as speeches of the delegates have demonstrated, there are a kind of 'young wolves' who speak the rhetorics of confrontation in the Union, as well as sober and unification-minded policy makers." "Boris Yeltsin's address to the Civic Union convention is an invitation for meeting him half-way," the presidential press secretary emphasized.

Relations Between Yeltsin, Rutskoy Viewed

OW0103165293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 01 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] INTERFAX [IF] was told in the head of state's press service office that the Monday schedule of Boris Yeltsin did not include any official meetings or public functions. The president intends to concentrate on studying first priority documents that have accumulated during his 12 day vacation. This week Yeltsin is expected to continue political consultations which he started on Sunday when he attended a convention of the Civic Union (CU), an influential centrist movement. He may meet with the leaders of that organization in the Kremlin this week. (The CU leadership includes Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, chairman of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Democratic Party of Russia Nikolay Travkin, and secretary of the Constitution Commission Oleg Rumyantsev - IF [INTERFAX]).

According to presidential press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, Yeltsin regards his presence at the CU convention as a major step towards reconciliation. Still, Kostikov said, the president heard no breakthrough making ideas at the convention.

IF Note: In an INTERFAX interview Aleksandr Vladislavlev, one of the CU leaders, referred to the situation in the Russian Government as "absurd" because the new premier "is deprived of the possibility to form a team of like-minded people." Everything now depends on whether the prime-minister has the political will to form his own team, said Vladislavlev. The professional interests of the Chernomyrdin group and what remains of the Gaydar team do not fit organically. Experts do not think it impossible that at a meeting with Yeltsin now on the President's schedule, the CU leaders may suggest specific cabinet changes.

At their meeting with Yeltsin on the eve of the December Congress of People's Deputies, CU leaders suggested changes in the governmental team; in particular, they wanted ministers Andrey Kozyrev, Petr Aven, and Andrey Nechayev to resign. At that time Yeltsin said that the CU appetite was "gross." Observers think that supporters of the Civic Union had a decisive part to play on overcoming the constitutional crisis at the December Congress. It is thanks to their votes, they think, that Viktor Chernomyrdin was elected premier in December.

Numerous observers attribute Yeltsin's presence at the CU convention, in part, to his improved relations with Rutskoy. Kostikov said about it on Sunday [28 February] that "a process of necessary rapprochement has started, of overcoming the abnormal situation in which the vice-president existed, as it were, apart from the president.... It seems to me that there is goodwill on both sides."

During an interview with INTERFAX special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov on Monday, Kostikov said that "it would be good for society if the Civic Union's solid centrist potential were united with such a powerful stabilization factor as the president."

Yeltsin Messages to Constitutional Court, Parliament Published

PM0103163193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report followed by "Own Information" report: "President's Appeal to Constitutional Court and Supreme Soviet"]

[Text] An unusual event in the chronicle of the confrontation between the legislature and the executive occurred last week. Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin appealed to the Constitutional Court to fulfill its responsibilities more vigorously—to prepare a message on the state of constitutional legality in Russia.

According to information from circles close to the Constitutional Court, V. Zorkin received Yeltsin's appeal with the following content:

"As president of the Russian Federation, I am extremely concerned at the ever-deepening constitutional crisis in the country. Continuing the search for ways out of it, I beg you to accelerate the preparation of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court's annual message, as provided for by law, on the state of constitutional legality in the Russian Federation. I beg you also to pay special attention to the possible causes of this crisis,

which are rooted in the existing Russian Federation Constitution itself, and, in this connection, to the correlation between Article 3 on the one hand and Articles 104 and 107 on the other (they deal with who wields power—editor's note), as well as to the likely sources of the contradictions that now exist in Articles 109, 114, 115, 120, 122, and 125 of the Russian Federation Constitution and in certain other constitutional norms.

"It would be very desirable to complete the message on the state of constitutional legality and to send it to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet without delay."

Competent sources at the White House have reported that the president has sent the Supreme Soviet the following message:

"The legislature has the key role in resolving the constitutional crisis which has arisen in the country and, in particular, in eliminating all its causes, which are rooted in the existing Russian Federation Constitution itself.

"I beg the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies, in the event of any changes to the Russian Federation Constitution being prepared, to examine as a preliminary the annual message of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court on the state of constitutional legality in the Russian Federation and to take into consideration the assessments that it contains. I have asked the Russian Federation Constitutional Court not to delay over preparing the message and to send it to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet without delay."

Yeltsin Revamps Presidential Support Staff

MK2702085093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report in "Administration" column: "Yeltsin Revamps His Support Staff. Now His Edicts Must Draw Less Criticism"]

[Text] Following Boris Yeltsin's 22 February signing of an edict on improvements in the system of support for the Russian Federation president's activity, one can say that the president has heeded the Supreme Soviet speaker's rebukes. Namely, in order to avoid "blunders in edicts of so high a level" (from Khasbulatov's letter to Yeltsin of 15 January 1993), Yeltsin, together with his new chief of administration Sergey Filatov, decided to rely on teams of analysts.

In principle, the idea of building a "support system for the president's activity" is what Filatov began with when he started to work for the president. There were some unpleasant incidents in the process. Indeed, some mock reshuffle plans briefly mentioned in the press nearly sparked differences between high-ranking presidential and government officials. The remark, however, about the presidential apparatus being parallel in some respects with the government apparatus does apply to the present reshuffle. One can only note that parallelism is unavoidable. Should not the president get analysis and recommendations on socioeconomic policy? He undoubtedly should, and this is to be the job (according to the edict) of an economic and analysis center. Another center—for general politics—and a department for work with the territories and representative authorities will take care of political issues. Together these teams will be the basis for the newly formed bodies under the president: the President's Council and the Council of Heads of Administrations. The latter naturally suggests the question: Will the Council of Heads of Republics remain? Boris Yeltsin decided against merging the two.

The edict has abolished the presidential aides staff, the presidential consultative council....

We have been informed from among the president's staff that this reshuffle is at the expense of "overall strength." Hence there has been no increase in personnel. And another thing, the edict gives no powers to the president's teams to "rule anybody."

Yeltsin Personnel Reshuffles Viewed

PM2602144193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by Voldemar Koreshkov, assistant to chief editor: "President and His Team Take Up Starting Positions"]

[Text] It seems that a qualitatively new situation has taken shape in the Russian mentality. The president is strenuously filling every cell with vetted, handpicked people. At the same time he is reviewing his immediate entourage.

For various reasons Burbulis, Gaydar, Poltoranin, Petrov, Makharadze, and Starovoytova have changed jobs. Cadres changes have also affected second-echelon figures, many of whom began with Boris Yeltsin the mass movement for Russia's sovereignty and for reforms and democratic transformations.

In assessing the reshuffles which have taken place we cannot fail to see that they have in one case been a kind of compromise and in another an enforced measure by the president to preserve his strategic goals and positions.

Has Yeltsin finally parted with "his people?" I think the transfer of some of them to less significant posts is nothing more nor less than a skillful decoration, an attempt to divert public opinion from extravagant acts and even provocative actions by some of his supporters.

The temporary removal of these people from the front-line where political and state opponents meet is pursuing—and this is visible to the naked eye—utterly precise aims: strengthening the rear services and regrouping forces.

That task is being successfully resolved.

If we view individual appointments and reshuffles not in isolation but in logical, carefully considered conjunction with each other, then an integral and interdependent system emerges.

Even before Gaydar's resignation Sergey Shakhray returns to the government as deputy chairman.

Gaydar receives the post of director of the institute of economic problems of the transitional period and adviser to the president, essentially the leader of the shadow cabinet ready at any moment to take over from Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Chernomyrdin himself, despite repeated statements that he will not allow the government to be used as small change in political games, remains the hostage of Yeltsin's entourage.

Gennadiy Burbulis, the chief theorist of the destruction of the Soviet totalitarian system, after enforced departure into the shadows is creating the "Strategy" international humanitarian and political science center.

With the arrival of Sergey Filatov and Vyacheslav Volkov, the apparatus of the president's administration has been placed in "Democratic Russia's" reliable hands.

Mikhail Poltoranin, his loyal assistant Vladimir Volodin, and the radical democratic Sergey Yushenkov have headed the Federal Information Center which has been created. And immediately, as we predicted, they showed journalists their understanding of democracy: They established the undivided rule of one political grouping at the "Ostankino" state television and radio company, of which Vyacheslav Bragin was appointed chairman in January 1993. Incidentally, this gave rise to a resolute protest from Igor Malshenko, television general director, who resigned.

New people of radical-democratic orientation have joined the president's consultative council. Having received official letters of thanks, Academicians Georgiy Arbatov, Oleg Bogomolov, and Svyatoslav Fedorov and economist Nikolay Shmelev left the council.

The institution of his representatives in the regions was recently restricted directly to the president's administration. The certification of these representatives has begun.

The intensification of political factors when selecting cadres draws the attention. As Sergey Filatov, leader of the president's administration, stated recently, "people whose political views coincide with the president's political views have to be chosen for certain posts." That means that now it could be a case only of "elite" workers who are personally known to him, of "true" democrats, even if they are quite often insufficiently competent.

And so the starting positions have been taken in the president's camp, the forces are in place.

Now the task is to determine the direction of the main aspirations. It is primarily a case of power—the intensification of the real role of presidential structures and the reduction or even negation of the influence of the Congress of People's Deputies and th Supreme Soviet, a change to the qualitative compositio of these organs, the persistent continuation of the p.esent course of economic reforms with unpredictable consequences—a course rejected by life—insistence on the referendum as the means of resolving a fundamental dispute between executive and legislative power, and, finally, of the most pernicious consequences—the creation as a result of the failed referendum of a "nonrule-of-law area" in which, Sergey Shakhray stated, "the sides' actions are of a correspondingly nonrule-of-law nature."

I think we are being drawn into a spiral of fierce struggle in which all means, including the most extreme, will be used for the sake of victory.

But theoretically the path of talks and compromises has not yet become overgrown. Many top Russian leaders travel to work each morning along the Rublevskoye and then the Mozhayskoye highway, passing the hut in Fili, where in the far-off year of 1812 the famous Kutuzov council took place, as a result of which Moscow was left but Russia was saved.

I want to make a suggestion: That a new hut be built in Fili and that Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Valeriy Zorkin, Aleksandr Rutskoy, and Viktor Chernomyrdin be sat at the conference table and not allowed out until they have worked out a solution which satisfies the exhausted Russian peoples. I realize that sounds naive but how else can we get the country's leaders to see sense?

If they reach agreement then honor and renown will be theirs. If the struggle of ambitions continues—the people will have their say.

Poltoranin Says Strong Executive Branch Needed

LD2602115293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0833 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk February 26 TASS—"A strong executive branch of government should serve as a pivot, holding together Russia's statehood. The representative authority has no right to crush it with its tracks," head of the Federal Information Centre Mikhail Poltoranin told a press conference here on Thursday evening. It was held after his meeting with chiefs of the press services under the heads of Russia's regional administrations.

"We need a new model of Russia's economic, political and national arrangement," Poltoranin said. "The government-announced contest for the best image of the Russian Federation will help find interesting ideas pertaining to it. The contest will allow us to attract the most brilliant brains to this problem," he believes.

Poltoranin spoke highly about the professionalism and competence of Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, who is able, in his opinion, "to take resolute steps in order to clean up the mess".

Asked about the situation in the "Ostankino" Television and Radio Company, in particular about the open letter published by the former first vice-chairman of the company Igor Malashenko, who had resigned from this post, Poltoranin said: "His statement is an attempt to impart a political hue to crimial matters".

"Any pressure on journalists is out of the question," Poltoranin stated.

Court Confirms Decision To Unseat Yeltsin Deputy

LD2602144693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The Russian Constitutional Court on Friday confirmed the parliament decision to deprive Deputy Andrey Dunayev of his powers as member of the parliament.

The parliament decided to unseat Dunayev shortly after President Yeltsin appointed him in September 1991 to the post of the interior minister of the Russian Federation. Dunayev, referring to the Constitution, tried to appeal against the parliament decision.

However the Constitutional Court ruled that the decision of the Supreme Soviet was in conformity with the Constitution. Its resolution points out that the legislature passed the necessary amendments on the principle of division of power. Under the Constitution, members of parliament and their deputies cannot serve simultaneously as deputies.

Chairman of the parliament commission for legislation, Mikhail Mityukov, who represented the parliament in the court, noted that an appeal by a top-ranking official to the Constitutional Court against the decision of the legislature is evidence of success on the road of building a law-based society.

Rutskoy: Country's Future Lies With 'Centrist Forces'

PM0103164393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russia's Future Is in Centrism"]

[Text] Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy called on society for evolutionary transformations in Russia. He addressed the annual assembly of the Moscow joint-stock commercial bank "Vozrozhdeniye." The vice president, who does not accept any political extremes, as he put it, sees Russia's future lying with centrist forces. He described the present time which the country is going through as a "brain crisis."

Aleksandr Rutskoy reported on the preparation for the creation of an international financial foundation, which, it is planned, will be the guarantor of attracting investments into Russia's agro-industrial complex.

Shumeyko Comments on Referendum Possibilities

LD2602115693 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1840 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko by Yuriy Mironov in Moscow; date not given; entitled "On the Question of the Referendum"—recorded]

[Text] [Mironov] I would like to start our program about the referendum with what is perhaps a silly observation. You may remember the classical Soviet satirical work where someone says: "Nurse, open the curtains and see if Soviet power has ended out there." So here we have Soviet power, it is still being preserved and it is developing. What Soviet power means to all of us is the supremacy of the party, the soviets—which is where this word came from—the planned economy and so on. So, the inhabitants wonder whether they are still living under Soviet power or whether this is no longer the case.

[Shumeyko] They are living under Soviet power. That observation of yours really hits the mark. It hits the mark as far as concerns the political aspect as to why a referendum is required and why the executive authority is so keen to hold it. If we look back into history a little, at least starting from 1917, then we will be persuaded that the specific feature of Soviet statehood, in principle, is to hand over total power to one particular political institution or political body.

In 1917 they had the slogan "All Power to the Soviets," and they seemed to give it to the Soviets, but when it appeared that the Soviets could not cope with this power and were unable to, a harsher structure was created—let us even call it a militarized one—and over those years it was all handed over to the CPSU structures. The CPSU became that real power structure which governed the state over the past 70 years, which ruled the whole vast Soviet Union. That is, absolute power was given to one political institution. Russian people's deputies—I was a Russian people's deputy myself not so long ago—in their pre-election speeches, were constantly struggling with this (?power). The CPSU, that is, once more presented the slogan, "All Power to the Soviets; All power should be returned to the people," because it considered that Soviet power is the people's power, because the people choose those chosen by the people. We have been through all that—the Union collapsed, the CPSU ceased to exist, Russia became a free, sovereign, independent state, and today we have got just what we left behind, absolutely exactly what we were moving away from.

Absolute power has today been given to the Congress of People's Deputies, to this one political body, this one political institution. All this came to an end at the recent Seventh Congress. People's deputies adopted a few amendments which completed this process. Now, according to Article 104 of the Constitution, the Congress is the supreme body of state power. Now the Congress can make decisions as it sees fit on any question within the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. And you have a situation where the Congress has become both a legislative and executive and judiciary body. It takes any question and decides everything. And it has given the same rights to its own permanently active body, the Supreme Soviet. The Supreme Soviet can even annul decisions by the councils of ministers of republics within Russia. The funniest thing is that it too can examine all questions, with the exception of those questions which are within the jurisdiction of the Congress. But the Congress examines anything as it is, so if anything should by chance appear which the deputies forgot about, then only the Supreme Soviet will examine the question.

Strictly speaking, absolutely strictly, from the juridico-political point of view, a normal constitutional coup has taken place in the country. It culminated at the Seventh Congress. Why do I say constitutional coup? Because if you and I open the first article of the Constitution and take a look, it is written that the power of the people and the principle of power-sharing are inalienable conditions of the Russian State. These inalienable foundations have come to an end. Now all power has come to rest in one place.

The president—yes, incidentally, the Congress adopted an amendment whereby it can revoke presidential decrees and orders. They do not give the president such freedom. That means that the president is the highest official and the head of executive authority. Naturally, as head of the executive authority, the president is concerned with such problems as authority. But, in my view—for example I am the first deputy prime minister in the government and my job in the executive authority is to do the best I can for the national economy. It would seem, well, why do we need this authority? Well alright, let the Congress have it. But the fact is that by the Supreme Soviet assuming management functions...[changes thought] and incidentally, there is nothing about this in the Constitution. When the system of authority is laid down at the beginning of the Constitution there are no bodies like a management body or a control body, although the Supreme Soviet has taken all this upon itself, but that's their affair.

Recently there was a session of the government, an expanded session. We assembled all the heads of the republics in Russia and the heads of administrations, krays and oblast at this meeting, and with great seriousness we discussed the issues of the conclusions of 1992, and our tasks for 1993. We worked out a plan. A [word indistinct], specific measures, very specifically aimed at improving things for people who are worse off, halting the fall in productivity and seeing that the financial and banking systems start to make a profit, all of that, and all very specific. But these measures will remain on paper if all branches of authority do not work jointly on these plans. If they do not agree to do all this...[changes thought] this is why the disagreement started.

The president, using all the rights he has, is trying to reach such an agreement. I have the text of the agreement which has recently been under discussion. When he met Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov they agreed to try once more to approach this issue and reach such an agreement. However, as you know, the deputies are now saying that no agreement is possible. Ruslan Imranovich himself acts in exactly this way. For example, he held talks with the president. They say: We will conclude an agreement. Two working groups were appointed. The president appointed me as the head and Khasbulatov made Ryabov the head. We were supposedly to find a joint text, put it forward and so on. Now, he himself says that the idea of an agreement is a bad idea and offers nothing, so the same process is continuing.

In future, it will be possible to put this agreement directly to the Congress. According to the Constitution...[pauses] the president thankfully has the right to take the initiative to summon a Congress of People's Deputies and apply to the Congress. If you look at this agreement, the essence of this third section is what the executive authority needs so that it can function now. This is the plan I spoke about.

The administration of federal property is carried out by the government. Structures which carry executive or management functions and which at present are subordinate to the Supreme Soviet are abolished or transferred to the system of executive power or are made subordinate to the government. In particular, the Russian Fund of Federal Property is abolished. The federal extra-budgetary funds are to be transferred to the system of executive power. The Central Bank, the Vnesheconombank, Vneshtorgbank, the State Statistics Committe, the Pension Fund are to be made subordinate to the government of the Russian Federation while remaining accountable to the Supreme Soviet.

All of this greatly annoys the deputies. They do not regard this as a proposal from the executive branch of power to work together, even if everything remains accountable, even if they can ask questions every day, even if they make it possible to resolve these questions as they come up. Take this notorious bank which everyone is talking about, even in connection with nonpayments by enterprises, as you may recall.

[Mironov] Yes, I do.

[Shumeyko] What is happening when it takes several months to be transferred? The enterprises may be just across the street from one another but it takes several months to transfer the money.

[Mironov] Chernomyrdin said that in the last century money arrived much more quickly when they only had the postal system.

[Shumeyko] Of course. We cannot go on like this. When you have things in different departments this leads to what we have come to expect. It turns out that they regard this agreeent as if only the executive authorities need it. The deputies, on the one hand, say that the people have been impoverished, and call for the reforms to be altered and to be given a social direction, so let us get on and do this. It turns out that they say one thing but in fact something else entirely is adopted while they gather all power to themselves. I repeat this once again.

Borders are exclusively under the control of the Congress. Only the Congress can establish the borders of the Russian Federation. Every day they hold the government to blame for the fact that Russia is being torn apart, that everything is being taken abroad, and so on. But Russia's borders have not yet been defined. We still have the borders of the Soviet Union. The manning level of the border troops is only 50 percent. There will be virtually no draft this year thanks to all the actions the deputies have taken on this question. We are obliged to preserve these distant borders. They are semitransparent. And naturally, when Russia does not have any borders the things that are happening are inevitable. However, this question is also not being resolved. While they blame the executive power they do not make any decision even on what would appear to be such a vital matter for us. And why is this? It is because the majority of deputies totally disagree with this course.

Perhaps most of them are still hoping to preserve the Soviet Union, to restore it. But we, the executive power, are used to living with real things, things that are happening now. And real life makes it clear that in the near foreseeable future the Soviet Union is not going to be restored. So there is a need today to focus directly on Russia and to work as fast and as hard as possible so that the Russian people can start to live better. And by the way, no one would join a union offered by a weak party—the stronger Russia becomes, the sooner will these integration links return. I could continue this sort of conversation ad infinitum.

If, let us say, the president approaches the Congress directly about the agreement and the Congress will not decide in its favor, the only option left to us will be a referendum. Why are we talking about this referendum? This is our constitutional right—to put the most difficult and the most important state issues to vote by the whole people—this is what is called a referendum. Many people start wondering: Will they turn out or not, will they vote or not? At any rate, we should not decide this on behalf of the people and pretend as if they were all that stupid. Thank goodness, everyone understands everything.

If we just look at the letters—I am receiving letters as the head of this commission on preparing the referendum, and I have a summary of their contents— people are mainly interested in three questions. I will give you a characteristic example—a letter from Murmansk. Here they are suggesting three questions: Do you think it admissible that the present article on the Congress of People's Deputies as a supreme body of state power should stay in the Constitution; do you think it necessary that a new constitution should be adopted at a constitutional assembly; and, do you think it necessary that an article on the right of every citizen to own land as a private property should be included in the new constitution? So, you see, they even suggest to us the questions we have now, those questions perfectly correspond. The question of power—who will have it—is going to be put bluntly at the Congress. Then there is the question on the new constitution. What is the new constitution today? The new constitution today is perhaps the most important document to be adopted by us. Don't let us rush too much, let us adopt a constitution for a transitional period. But we must tell the whole of society about the ideology of building the new things which are being created in Russia. This ideology is simply nonexistent today.

There used to be a slogan on the wall in every club: "Our aim is Communism!" or "Under the banner of Marxism-Leninism Forward to the Victory of Communism!" and every movement in the country was compared with this slogan and this aim. We were building communism and we were moving toward it with gigantic strides etc. and everything was explained by this. Today we say that we are making democratic transformations in Russia, we are in favor of a mixed and market economy, etc. But unfortunately there is no ideology of construction, and there is no other document in this sense but a new constitution, and its main clauses will demonstrate attitude to private ownership, relations between people, what system and what statehood there are. It should be adopted.

[Mironov] ...And attitude to Soviet power?

[Shumeyko] Exactly. But the people do not want the present deputies to adopt this constitution. No matter how good they are as individuals, they no longer express the interests of the whole people. Therefore the question is posed very clearly: Constitutional assembly, constituent assembly. This assembly should represent the whole multinational people of the Russian Federation with all the subjects of the federation. And only this assembly can adopt a new constitution. That is, we are all arriving logically at a situation where if we do not find, later, as the executive wing of power, consensus with the people's deputies—and I can see that we are not finding it—there will be no other choice but to go to a referendum.

Many people say that we are not ready, that 11 April is too early to hold the referendum. We will never be ready. We need to pose these questions and get answers. We are not ready, but we will still come back to it later, we will still be forced to go to the people with three, or a maximum of four simple laconic questions in order to get an answer on what to do next.

[Mironov] Have these questions crystallized for you as leader?

[Shumeyko] You know, it was a good idea to show you one of these letters. The president's correspondence department recently prepared a sort of review. A very large number of letters of all sorts come in. Interestingly enough, most letters recently have been about the referendum, while the usual questions about social welfare and housing issues have taken second place. People are very concerned indeed. If one looks at what most people choose, they are these three things: Dissolution of the Congress as an institution of power, which has arrogated all powers to itself; the adoption of a new constitution at the referendum—I mean at a constitutent assembly; and the land question is another which worries many people. But the land question is an extremely complex and extremely subtle issue. Many of the subjects of the federation simply do not have this land: Our northern Caucasian republics, for example, do not have as much land as areas in the central zone. So one has to weigh up this issue carefully from all sides, and formulate it properly. People are absolutely right that the issue must be put properly; it is the right of every citizen to own land and dispose of that land as an owner. That is his right. Society will go on to decide the issue depending on the conditions, but the citizen has to acquire that right, otherwise it is hard to imagine how things can develop further.

[Mironov] Nevertheless, Vladimir Filipovich, what is your forecast for how the situation may turn out, because at the moment all sorts of specialists—and there are great many of those among journalists at the moment—are forecasting this and that, and making fun of the situation, asking whether a referendum is necessary, and saying it's absurd and so on and so forth. We all read the papers and know all about it, so I will not repeat it. But the whole matter is grounds for mockery, for anecdotes and jibes against the president and the Supreme Soviet as well. When will all this end?

[Shumeyko] Not long ago Nikolay Timofeyevich Ryabov and myself cochaired a roundtable session. The issue of holding the referendum was on the agenda, and the whole roundtable adopted the resolution not to hold it. But what was the wording? The roundtable agreed that it would be inexpedient to hold the referendum on 11 April. But a decision to reject it altogether was not made. I could see from all the speeches, the way the issue was raised, that everybody wanted to hold it, but the thing is that they are simply not ready today. Each political grouping, each force wants to use it for enhancing their prestige, as it were. They know that the referendum will take place anyway and that it is impossible to move forward without a new constitution. The Congress will not adopt a new constitution, I am absolutely sure about that. The constitution will not be a new one; it should be adopted by a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention. That is why some people are so much afraid to hold it precisely now, hoping that yet another Congress will be convened. But what can it do? To call in question the existence of presidential power as such, in general, at the next Congress? But it is a nationwide ballot, and on presidency... [changes thought] and on the whole, there will be no progress.

We have already made a slight digression in history today. And if we look for historical references, we will understand that we need stronger power today, not for the sake of power itself but in order to achieve something. Therefore, thank God, the people will decide what is required today by way of a referendum.

[Mironov] But as someone in charge of preparations for the referendum, can you say: We will be ready by 11 April?

[Shumeyko] we are ready for 11 April, we are ready. Why do you think many people are asking for the president's questions to be presented as soon as possible? You see, the thing is that, after all, we are constantly trying to act in accordance with the Constitution and law, not deviating from the law in any way. The Seventh Congress adopted the decision on holding the referendum. The questions are to be approved by the Supreme Soviet. There is the following provision there: In case the president disagrees, he can include his version of the question on the voting slip. The three sides which signed the constitutional agreement at the Seventh Congress are not equal. Both Zorkin and Khasbulatov are heads of collective bodies, and both can at any time hide behind the body's decisions. Khasbulatov can always say that, yes, I said this, I had such an opinion, but the Supreme Soviet decided differently. The same applies to the Constitutional Court. But the president has no such opportunity, he has no collective body behind which he could hide, bluntly speaking.

He must speak just once and it must be well-considered and precise. Therefore, today, when there are in effect no questions—and the 12 questions which were proposed by the Supreme Soviet Presidium and not by the Supreme Soviet itself, these are not questions at all, they are simply the opinion of a particular group of individuals who wrote them. When the Supreme Soviet approves them, then they will be questions. Let me say that we are also preparing our questions, and we have looked at a mass of different versions.

As chairman of the commission for holding the referendum, what should I do? In the first place I have to make the technical preparations for holding it—the communications, transport, polling booths, financing. All of this has been done, everything is ready and we could hold it tomorrow.

And the second thing that I have done, which I have to do as chairman of the commission, was to draw the proposals together, as the president's instruction puts it, to take the Supreme Soviet's questions, to take the opinions of all the political parties and movements, of

ordinary people, to draw them together and give proposals to the president as to what questions to put forward. The president is also ready with these questions.

But it is not ruled out, it is still possible, there is still some hope that an agreement will be concluded if this initiative comes jointly from the president and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Therefore, we are obliged to busy ourselves with this every day.

[Mironov] But do you yourself consider that some sort of compromise is possible without a referendum at this time?

[Shumeyko] If I have to tell you honestly, I can not see it today.

[Mironov] So 1993 does not promise to be a year of reforms, but will remain a year of political struggle.

[Shumeyko] You know, if this agreement had taken place at the start, we would still insist that the year should be a year of the economy. We have had enough of engaging in these political scandals. Well, you know, this is a good appeal, but views differ on the course of these reforms. They differ very greatly, for example, between the executive branch of power and the legislative branch. You could see this from the most recent Congress, and, by the way, the Supreme Soviet today is even more conservative in this respect than the Congress. There is a hope that the Congress will understand, if they really are the people's representatives, that Russia as a vast state, cannot be kept in this position with one foot in socialism and the other foot in the market, and the further we go on, the further apart we become. As the executive power, we need to know where we stand.

[Mironov] So, do you think that the nationwide referendum will take place on 11 April, after all?

[Shumeyko] As chairman of the commission I will do everything in my power to ensure that it takes place. I will try to apply my skills, my efforts and political will to ensure that this referendum takes place and we get answers to these questions. Why do I have such a burning desire? Not simply because the referendum is necessary but simply because I, as first deputy prime minister of the government, know more about it than ordinary people. And I know what sort of economic abyss we could fall into if we do not rapidly undertake measures to ensure that all three branches of power complete these reforms together. There is no other alternative today. To be quite frank, I do not see any other way out, this is the only thing left for us today.

[Mironov] That is, the question of the referendum is directly linked with the economy.

[Shumeyko] Yes, with the economy. It is one with the economy. It is not a matter of politics, or of wanting to play off different opinions against one another and so on, who will win and how. I still hope that the people will understand everything in the right way. And again, proper questions should be asked. The ones which will produce answers, in real terms. Look what questions are being asked; people are looking into the very depths. If the question is worded as follows: Do you believe that Congress should be preserved as the supreme body of (?power)? Let us assume that we would want a negative answer, that there should be no Congress. If there is no Congress as a supreme body, then everything else follows: What follows is that a new constitution is needed, a new constitution will have provisions for a new legislative body, for that is indispensable, there must be either a legislative assembly, or a two-chamber Supreme Soviet, a Soviet of Nationalities. But this means direct elections, elections on a totally new basis—elections based on full understanding of the program set out in the constitution. Those people who will aspire to get involved in all this, will then do it. Why does the question of the constituent assembly arise? Because it is very well understood that when a deputy, no matter how very sincere he may be, no matter what personal qualities he may have, adopts any legislative act, he will be identified with it, whether he wants it or not. So, what is there in it for him?

When the Constituent Assembly is convened, the deputies' sole function is to adopt a new constitution and then disband: that's why it is a constitutional assembly, it has just one function, the deputies do not stay. What is more, it has been suggested that when the elections to the Constitutional Assembly are held, every one who gets elected to it should give a written undertaking that for five years, say, he or she would occupy no political or economic posts or take part in that sort of activity. The deputy is there solely as the representative of the people. These really are vitally urgent issues. I think that if the issue were approached properly, we would be able to explain it to everyone if the will were there on the part of all the branches of power. But that will is not there, as far as our legislators are concerned—or whatever they are, I don't know, the supreme body of state power—anyway, just does not have the will to explain and demonstrate why it is necessary.

[Mironov] We have no blinds on the windows here; so Soviet power is still continuing after all.

[Shumeyko] For the moment, yes. Things are just as they used to be.

Stresses Need for Referendum

PM0103154593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 4

[Commentary by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government, under the "Analysis and Forecast" rubric: "Why the Referendum Is Necessary"]

[Text] The historical path of Russia's development as a state beginning from October 1917 proves that the peculiarity of Soviet-style state power is its total concentration in any one political institution. Thus in the

former Soviet Union all real power, after the very brief "reign" of the soviets, was transferred to the Communist Party, and belonged to it for many years.

Unfortunately, having made great efforts of late to wipe out the CPSU as a power structure, Russia's people's deputies—and along with them the deputies of soviets at other levels—have gone back to square one. The Seventh Congress of People's Deputies completed in practice the job of concentrating power into a political institution—the Congress of People's Deputies. One of the amendments adopted by the Congress to the existing Constitution reads: "The Russian Federation's supreme organ of state power is the Congress of People's Deputies, which is empowered to examine and resolve any question coming within the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation."

In other words, the Congress has become simultaneously a legislative, executive, and judicial organ entrusted with the rights to undertake not only legislative activities, but executive-administrative, and judicial activities too. The abolition of edicts and directives from the Russian Federation president also comes under the Congress' exclusive charge now, although the Constitution says nothing about the necessary grounds, and procedure for such a revocation. The Congress' standing organ—the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—is also invested with these absolute powers. For instance, under Article 109 of the Constitution, the Supreme Soviet received what is at first glance a normal right "regularly to hear reports from organs selected by it." However, the list of these organs includes the Russian Federation Supreme and Higher Arbitration Courts, and kray, and oblast courts: Now they, dependent upon nobody when administering the law, must report back to the legislative organ.

Moreover, the Supreme Soviet "establishes the procedure for the organization and activity of federal organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power..."

Thanks to amendments adopted by the Congress, the Supreme Soviet has acquired the right to "suspend the validity of the Russian Federation president's edicts and directives, and to abolish resolutions and directives from the Councils of Ministers of republics within the Russian Federation should they fail to comply with Russian Federation laws." It is not difficult to see that this is direct interference in the competence of the executive, and that it is in direct contravention with a whole range of articles in the Constitution. Thus under Article 107 of the Constitution "the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is the permanently operating legislative, administrative, and control organ of Russian Federation state power," while, according to Article 3 of the Constitution, no administrative and control organs are indicated in the system of state power in the Russian Federation.

Efforts by the people's deputies to endow themselves with additional authoritative powers even appear laughable at times. Under Item 26 of Article 109 of the Constitution for instance, the Supreme Soviet "resolves other questions pertaining to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, apart from those pertaining to the jurisdiction the Congress of People's Deputies." But, as already stated above, the Congress is entitled to resolve any questions. Hence it emerges that any questions which exist as a matter of course are resolved by the legislature. And if, in time, some other questions should happen to appear demanding a solution, then it must automatically be resolved by the people's deputies alone.

In short, the monopolization of state power effected by the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies and Supreme Soviet has led to a sharp imbalance between legislative, executive, and judicial powers, and exacerbated an already complex political situation. Strictly speaking, from a political-juridical viewpoint, a veritable constitutional coup has taken place, as the "immutable bases of constitutional order—the sovereignty of the people, and the division of powers" as specified by Article 1 of the Constitution have been undermined.

The development of events after the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies proved that further democratic and economic reforms in Russia are no longer possible without the clear-cut collaboration of all branches of power. As a result, the extended 11 February 1993 Russian Federation Government sitting involving leaders of Russian Federation republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomies, approved a plan of action for the Russian Federation Council of Ministers/Government to implement economic reforms in 1993. This plan envisages measures for the social protection of the population, for overcoming the slump in production, for financial stabilization, for strengthening the ruble, for supporting agricultural commodity producers, and for reinforcing Russian statehood. In principle, the future development of the Russian state depends upon the fulfillment of these absolutely concrete measures today.

However, unless the balance of powers is restored very soon, and unless the executive authorities are given the chance to work normally, and fruitfully, all of these measures will remain on paper.

Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin, who, according to the Constitution, is the highest official personage and head of the executive, is making consistent efforts via constitutional, lawful means to establish a balance between the legislative, executive, and judicial powers. Following talks with Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov, the president sent the Supreme Soviet a draft "Agreement by the Russian Federation Federal Organs of Legislative and Executive Power to Stabilize Constitutional Order Pending the Adoption of a New Russian Federation Constitution."

In particular, the third section of the draft states:

"1. The Russian Federation Government administers federal property. Departments and structures exercising

executive and administrative functions under the jurisdiction the Supreme Soviet are either abolished or transferred to the system of executive authority, or rendered subordinate to the Russian Federation Government. Specifically, the Russian Federal Property Fund is abolished. Federal extrabudgetary funds are transferred to the system of executive power. The Central Bank of Russia, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity and the Foreign Trade Bank, the Russian State Committee for Statistics, and the Russian Federation Pension Fund are rendered subordinate to the Russian Federation Government, while remaining accountable to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet. The leaders of the departments in questions are brought into the body of the Russian Federation Government.

"2. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopts decisions relating to credit and emissions only by aggreement with the Russian Federation Government.

"3. Citizens' rights to local self-government, secured by material and financial resources, and protected from arbitrary interference by the state, its organs, and official personnel, are guaranteed."

However, a portion of deputies and Russian Supreme Soviet members has subjected these constructive proposals to harsh criticism. The deputies do not want "any kind of agreement" with the executive authority, and they view the Russian president's proposals merely as an "assault" on their own power.

This is what ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, the official organ of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, writes on the subject of the aforementioned third section of the draft agreement: "In civilized society, it is usual when clearing the air to demand such decisive concessions only from the side which is already losing, or which is obviously the weaker. But you know, the debate—that is, the referendum—has not yet taken place. Is not the president overestimating his popularity among the people, and his changes of victory?" It is clear that even at the brink of the economic abyss the people's deputies are inclined nevertheless to take on the president and the executive, and to gain a victory.

The Russian president still has one more chance: namely, in an effort to find agreement between the branches of power, to submit the agreement for examination directly to the Congress of People's Deputies. This is not ruled out—and this is clear from statements by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman, other Russian people's deputies, and the statements of virtually all kray and oblast soviet chairmen—that the Congress, like the Supreme Soviet, will also reject the Russian President's proposals. Then just one legitimate solution will remain: to appeal directly to the people under Article 5 of the Constitution, and submit the question on the further development of democratic reforms for nationwide discussion. Today only the Russian Federation's multiethnic people can determine the course for the state's future development.

I do not believe representatives of those parties and movements claiming that the people do not need a referendum today. The esteemed gentlemen and all of their comrades must know that a referendum is needed. It is definitely needed! This is proven by the stream of letters sent to the president and the Commission for Preparing the Referendum. The vast majority of these letters broach, in one way or another, three questions which, in their authors' view, should be submitted for referendum. In summarized form, they boil down to the impossibility of further preserving the Congress of People's Deputies as the supreme organ of state power, the need a new constitution to be adopted by a legislative assembly representing the entire multiethnic people of the Russian Federation, and the need to include in the Constitution the unconditional right of every Russian citizen to manage, own, and exploit land.

Says Compromise With Parliament Not Possible

LD2602112993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0810 GMT 26 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—First Vice-Chairman of the Russian Government Vladimir Shumeyko believes that "a constitutional coup d'etat had occurred during the 7th Congress of People's Deputies", which has put an end to the division of powers, a principle envisaged by the first article of the Russian Constitution. In December 1992, he told viewers of the "Ostankino" TV network on Thursday evening, "all the power in the country had gone over to the Congress of People's Deputies".

The vice-premier believes that this is impermissible and the only way out of the present crisis, he believes, is to achieve effective cooperation between the representative and executive branches of government by concluding a constitutional agreement on the basis of President Yeltsin's proposals. Such an agreement, Shumeyko is convinced, must be approved by an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. If this proves impossible, the executive branch of government will have nothing left to do, but to hold a referendum. "I no longer believe in a compromise with parliament members," he stated.

According to Shumeyko, public opinion polls and letters addressed by the population to President Yeltsin show that at least three following questions should be included in referendum ballots: the question of whether or not the Congress of People's Deputies should be dissolved "as an institute of power which had assumed full powers", the question of whether a new constitution should be adopted by a constituent assembly or not, and the question of whether private ownership on land should be allowed in the country.

Referendum To Cost Over 20 Billion Rubles

OW0103192993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The April referendum will cost 20 billion 403 million rubles, Chairman of the Central Electoral Committee Vasiliy Kazakov told a session of the Supreme Council's Presidium. After informing about the preparations for the referendum he pointed out that according to law the Central Electoral Committee is to approve a sample of the bulletin with questions of the referendum not later than 30 days before the date of its implementation, i.e. by March 12.

Kazakov noted that in general the preparations for the referendum are going on in a normal way. At the same time he suggested that the referendum might not be carried out. He said that the procedures for voting in military units stationed outside Russia, as well as in its embassies and consular offices abroad have not yet been decided. The Presidium of the Supreme Council ruled to discuss the issue once again at the next meeting.

Filatov Interviewed on Past, Present Duties

LD2602153793

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1900 GMT on 25 February carries a 52-minute recorded interview with Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, head of the administration of the Russian Federation president, by journalist Bella Kurkova on the "Political Olympus" program.

Kurkova comments on the current scene. She says people are weary of the hardships of everyday life and view skeptically the internecine strife among the country's leadership. Policy—and hence the state of the economy—appears to be determined by powerful individuals rather than by reasoned debate, Kurkova says.

Asked about his reasons for resigning as first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Filatov says: "There was a cluster of circumstances, and so it was very difficult to somehow separate one from the other. I have the feeling, however, that something is unfinished, something has been abandoned, something has been left even to a sort of arbitrary fate. A feeling of pain, a feeling of dissatisfaction exists. Because of this, I did not want to resign. I wanted to stay on until the 8th Congress. It seemed to me that it might be possible at the 8th Congress to put an end to the madness that started to occur in the highest sphere of the Supreme Soviet in power. It so happened, however, that the President intervened in my destiny, and I have ended up here."

Filatov continues: "I told Khasbulatov that I did not intend to resign, although relations were one-to-one and intense after the Congress." He says, "Khasbulatov proposed directly that I should leave and give up the post."

Kurkova asks: "What arguments did he use?"

Filatov replies: "None. It was awkward for him, and that was all. It is awkward, and we will not work together. Well, I realized that it was awkward and that there was no trust on his part. But then, what does Khasbulatov mean by trust? He means total devotion to him. I cannot do that. If matters do not allow it, how can one go against one's conscience, against one's principles."

Filatov goes on to say that there had never been any complaints about his work, but now efforts were being made to hunt out evidence of any dubious decisions that he might have made.

"Incidentally, I have noticed recently," Filatov says, referring to Khasbulatov, "and I am coming more and more to the conviction, that there are no state interests behind Khasbulatov's actions when he behaves in that way in relation to the president and in relation to the people who oppose him in some way or who speak against him. What there is is some kind of Caucasian thirst for vengeance. It can be felt in everything. Do you understand? That worries me terribly, of course, and simply frightens me because I do not know what can be more terrible for a state."

Filatov says he is also worried about the plan to set up various guard detachments in every town: one accountable to the president, one to the parliamentary speaker, and one to the chairman of the Constitutional Court. He says that "personal interests" were clearly at work here rather than genuine concern for state security or for the economy and that the cost would be enormous.

A video is then shown of the day when it was announced that Filatov had left his parliamentary post and a sequence in which Kurkova interviews some of Filatov's former scientific colleagues about him. Kurkova mentions the 7th Congress and "the rather tragic day when the president suggested that the people's deputies who supported him should go out with him from the hall in order to discuss their position and what to do next."

Kurkova comments that Filatov remained in the hall and asks if this was not an "unjustified compromise" on his part.

Filatov replies: "Well, it is very difficult now to remember what happened at the presidium. It really was hard to sit and to be there and, primarily, to make a decision." He says: "The confusion that, to some extent occurred at the presidium for a short time, seemed to me to require my presence, because it seemed to me that the confusion that had arisen would, in general, give us the opportunity to discuss how to make a correct decision.

"But Khasbulatov stood up and left. So we remained there with nothing to do. The president asked for a break in the proceedings. I believed that it would be wrong to reject the president's request, and I announced over the microphone that there would be a 30-minute break. Well, then you remember, Khasbulatov returned and

said: You are interfering. I did not instruct you to do that. By that time, he had written out a precise program for himself, to the effect that deputies could only do what he instructed them to do and nothing more. He worked it all out."

Filatov continues: "Nevertheless, I could see from the presidium that what he wanted had not worked, and the mass of people who had stood up and even taken a few steps had stopped because everyone realized that the decision would be made here, in the hall, and not where everyone else had gone. I know that very many stayed and had not registered. They were waiting for that moment to see what would happen. Well, the registration took place, and you remember how everything turned around after that.

"Anyway, I think that Boris Nikolayevich's speech achieved the main thing, because it was absolutely clear by then that an attack was being launched on presidential, as well as governmental, power. It was also clear that there was a flaw in the Constitution, an internal contradiction, because of the fact that the Congress had, in effect, refused to limit its powers after the referendum on the election of the president—which would have been perfectly logical since the people had expressed their support for a presidential structure of power. This could only be defeated by one thing—by the fact that the president could demand a referendum. This is a natural state of affairs, since the people gave him his powers and the people trusted him and his program. He was not being allowed to carry out that program. So who should he turn to? Obviously, to the people, quite naturally.

"Then the agonizing process began concerning an agreement containing that point—the most important one—that has today taken on the features of warfare, as you can see. It is terrible warfare. That is what was to happen because the plan that Khasbulatov has hatched is perfectly clear to me."

Kurkova asks: "What plans?"

Filatov replies: "There is a very simple plan. The government, as the authority, is to be given maximal powers. This is clearly in accordance with the law—let us say—on the Council of Ministers. It is then to be separated from the president as much as possible and perhaps even set at loggerheads with him. Incidentally, I think he has been in too much of a hurry with this, in fact. Speaking last week, if you remember, he said that we have two executive authorities that are constantly fighting. They are not fighting as yet, but that is his dream, in general."

Kurkova says that there is a plan to turn Yeltsin into a mere figurehead like the British constitutional monarch. Filatov discusses contradictions in the Constitution. He says the referendum is intended to sort them out and quotes the example of the Altay Kray Soviet annulling all of Yeltsin's decrees. Filatov says that there will be anarchy if this precedent is followed. Yet, he adds, the president was elected by the people, unlike Khasbulatov and Zorkin. He says that they should not all be put on the same level and that everything can be sorted out without a congress.

Filatov goes on to say that the congress should not be able to interfere in economic matters. He says he thinks that the president and the government should introduce reform ideas, and parliament should then vote on them.

Kurkova asks if Filatov is bored with politics. Filatov says that he is not bored and that he enjoys the intellectual challenge.

Asked if there are too many compromises, Filatov says that the most important thing is that there should be sound laws, otherwise there is anarchy. He says that compromise is essential in legislative work.

Economic Issues

Fedorov Criticizes Russian Central Bank

LD2702130593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Boris Fedorov said that one of the government's primary tasks to achieve financial stabilization is to reduce inflation. Speaking at a news conference in St. Petersburg yesterday [26 Februar], he said that at present the inflation rate is such as to make planning impossible.

Fedorov criticized the actions of Russia's Central Bank. Fedorov said that the government will oppose the bank's efforts to make it easier for itself to supervise the banking system by restricting the initial capital of commercial banks and will oppose attempts to fix the ruble-dollar exchange rate at any level which distorts realities. Fedorov also said that the government is expecting the bank within the next few days to decide to raise interest rates, to tighten up conditions for granting credits, and to take a number of other measures. If these measures are not taken, Fedorov stressed, the government will be unable to carry out its planned program.

Yeltsin Decree Forms Investment Insurance Agency

OW2602174693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1646 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Friday [26 February] "On the Formation of an International Agency for Insuring Investments to Russia From Non-Commercial Risks." The decree was issued in an attempt to improve financial conditions for attracting foreign investment to Russia and using these investments, reported the president's press service.

The decree stipulates forming a national organizing committee to oversee the international agency's formation. The organizing committee, which will be chaired by Aleksandr Shokhin, has been instructed to conduct negotiations with international financial organizations, foreign banks, and investment and insurance companies on issues regarding forming the international agency and obtaining prescribed capital.

New Tax Investigation Service's Functions Explained

PM0103165393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Feb 93 p 5

[Report by Nikolay Medvedev from the Russian Defense Ministry Press Center: "Another 3,500 Officers for the Tax Service"]

[Text] A new structural subdivision, the Tax Investigations Main Administration, has been set up under the Russian State Tax Service. Similar administrations and departments are being set up at local level.

"Taxes are a most important source of revenue for the federal budget and local budgets," Yuriy Chichelov, deputy head of the new main administration, said. "But the tax situation is worrying. As a result of concealed income, the treasury receives one-third less taxes than it should, although unofficial sources say it is considerably more than that. The situation must be rectified, which is what we are doing. Some 264 million rubles [R] were spent on maintaining our structure in 1992. On the other hand, R870 million were returned, and a further R2 billion have been entered in the books and will be sent to the treasury in the near future.

"Here is just one example: The tax investigations service in Moscow has brought to light more than 1,000 entrepreneurial structures which are not registered anywhere. Naturally, none of them have thought about settling accounts with the state. So now they are going to have to pay their taxes. But the main functions of the new service are to educate, caution, and strictly monitor observance of tax legislation.

"Subdivisions of the main administration—administrations and departments with rights equivalent to those of administrations—have been set up in almost every kray, oblast, and major autonomous formation. It is planned to establish 464 such bodies in Russia. Moreover," Chichelov said, "tax investigations subdivisions will not act as a substitute for tax inspection but will be an important complement to it, using highly specific methods.

"Because of additions to legislation adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet," Chichelov said, "we have been invested with rights of inquiry equal to those enjoyed by the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Security Ministry. Consequently, we are classed as a principal engaged in operational and investigative activity. Our officials are authorized within the confines of the law to establish their own information sources, carry out spot checks, acquaint themselves with the necessary financial documents, and use equipment when conducting operational measures.

"Members of the main administration were actively involved in the preparation of the Russian Federation draft law 'On the Tax Police.' With the adoption of this law, the tax investigations service will be set on a definitive legal footing. Its members will be given special titles, incidentally. 'Major of tax police,' for example....

"But not everyone will be suitable for work in the tax police. They will have to have a thorough financial and legal grounding and the appropriate physical qualities. Consequently, tax investigations subdivisions will be staffed by experienced financial personnel, as well as by representatives of 'power' departments: the Security Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, and Defense Ministry. The Security Ministry and Internal Affairs Ministry have been set a quota of approximately 1,000 members of personnel to be attached to the main administration. In addition, almost 3,500 officers are being sent here on the instruction of the Russian defense minister, Army General Pavel Grachev. The cost of their attachment to the main administration will be covered by the Russian State Tax Service.

"All those attached to the main administration will undergo thorough training at Internal Affairs Ministry and foreign intelligence training establishments. Officers are willing to enter operational and investigative work and physical defense subunits. After all, there is an element of risk in tax inspectors' work. As many as 139 serious threats against them were recorded last year," Chichelov said, "as well as 40 cases of arson, damage to personal property, and assault. Instances where people simply bar them access and refuse to present their tax returns are too numerous to mention.

"Meanwhile, women account for more than 80 percent of Russian tax service personnel. They are often afraid to carry out checks where they are sent. Henceforth, there will be someone to guarantee their safety and get a grip of the 'difficult customers' in some commercial structures. Physical defense subunits include a fair number of ex-paratroopers, former members of special purpose troops, and officers who have served in the not unknown 'Alfa' and even in the presidential guard."

Media Issues

Deputy Press, Information Ministers Appointed

PM0103120093 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By a directive of Russian Federation Council of Ministers Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, David Tsabriya is appointed first deputy Russian Federation minister of the press and information, and Vyacheslav Vorgachev and Oleg Yusitskiy are appointed deputy Russian Federation ministers of the press and information.

Council of Ministers Issues Directive on Media

PM0103155693 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 93 First Edition p 5

["Directive of the Council of Ministers—Government of the Russian Federation, 16 February 1993, No. 246-r, Moscow," signed by V. Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation]

[Text] In implementation of Edict of the President of the Russian Federation No. 1647, 25 December 1992, "On the Russian Federal Information Center":

1. The Russian Ministry of Information and the Press, in accordance with established procedure:

Is to place under the authority of the Russian Federal Information Center the House of the Russian Press;

Is to resolve, by agreement with the Russian Federal Information Center, questions of placing under the latter's authority the television and radio broadcasting companies currently under its own jurisdiction;

Is to hand over to the Russian Federal Information Center the functions of leadership of the activity of the Information Telegraph Agency of Russia (ITAR).

2. The Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property:

In accordance with established procedure, is to implement the transfer from the books of the Russian Ministry of Information and the Press to the books of the Russian Federal Information Center the buildings located at these addresses: 26 Pushkinskaya Street, 5 Strastnoy Boulevard, and 1 Lyublinskaya Street, Moscow;

Within two months, it is to make available to the Russian Ministry of Information and the Press an administrative building to house its central apparatus.

The Russian Ministry of Information and the Press is authorized, by agreement with the Russian Federal Information Center and the Russian State Committee for the Management of State Property, temporarily, until a new building is made available, to make use of part of the premises formerly allocated to it at this address: 5 Strastnoy Boulevard, Moscow.

[Signed] First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers-Government of the Russian Federation, V. Shumeyko

Military & Other Issues

Air Force Compelled To Cut Pilots' Flying Time

PM0103122593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Feb 93 p 3

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin report on interview with Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Air Force; place and date not given: "Difficult Period for Air Force"]

[Text] There are two pilots for every single-seater aircraft in the Russian Federation Air Force. This was disclosed during a conversation your ITAR-TASS correspondent had with Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Federation Air Force.

Several thousand airmen have now transferred to service in the Russian Air Force from the republics of the former Union. Regarding the process of forming the Russian Air Force and bringing it into line with the concept of organizational development of the state's Armed Forces, he noted that in this situation each combat-ready plane will be flown by a crew or pilot possessing the highest level of air combat proficiency. The decline in the supply of aviation fuel is having a very painful effect. The Russian Air Force has been obliged to reduce the annual flying time for front-line aviation pilots to 40 hours, to 80 hours for long-range aviation pilots, and to 150 hours for military transport aviation pilots.

The Russian Federation Air Force commander in chief expressed the hope that the Russian Government will not neglect the problems of the fatherland's defenders of the air. The situation is complicated today by the rupture of many economic ties among the republics of the former USSR. There is a very acute shortage of compulsory-service servicemen—the Air Force draft, as in all the other branches of forces, is proceeding with great difficulty. The situation concerning airmen's housing is catastrophic: There are 22,000 men and, together with the members of their families, they make a total of around 100,000 people without housing.

Arms Exports Wanted To Fund Conversion

PM0103153193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 7

[Vladimir Khrustov report: "Arms Market: Is There a 'Place in the Sun' for Us There? In the Past Two Years Russia's Income From Arms Exports Has Decreased by a Factor of More Than Three. Why?"]

[Text] The arms trade has always been one of the most lucrative types of export for the majority of industrially developed countries. The Soviet Union was no exception. On the contrary, throughout recent decades it was, along with the United States, the world leader in supplying military hardware and equipment.

So despite nonspecialists' convictions, it was by no means solely petrodollars that formed the main category of the country's hard currency receipts until recently. We received considerable income from the export of weapons and hardware. Obviously, this was not publicized. Naturally our achievements in this sphere were not advertised either.

Unlike us, Western companies, fighting for a place in the world weapons market, did not miss the smallest opportunity to provide the best of publicity for their combat equipment—fighter airplanes, armored personnel carriers, missile and artillery systems, and much else besides. The logic was simple—all these things are commodities, and very popular ones. And since the weapons market is totally saturated and consequently competition is great, enormous efforts have to be made in order to sell commodities with the maximum profit.

Today Russian specialists also have a good understanding of this. Our leading aviation firms unfailingly participate in all prestigious aerospace shows. At the last show—in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates—Russia presented around 370 models of state-of-the-art hardware and weapons, mainly for the Ground Forces and Navy—from T-80U tanks with gas turbine engines, which have proved their efficiency in desert sands, and missile systems for various purposes, to antitank grenade launchers and a wide range of firearms.

Although the Russian defense industry workers have entirely competitive commodities at their disposal, as foreign experts acknowledge, in many respects they have to practically start from scratch in winning a market. Since 1990 Russia's income from the sale of military hardware and weapons has decreased by a factor of at least three. In 1992, for example, these currency receipts totaled just $4 billion, while in the United States the figure was $30 billion.

No, our hardware is no worse—the market has changed radically. First of all, the Warsaw Pact has fallen apart, and the armed forces of the member states of this alliance were equipped solely with Soviet weapons and military hardware. Now, however, East European countries are in no hurry to buy Russian weapons—the money is needed for other things.

Second, Russia has given up the role of "big brother" and no longer grants free assistance in the form of military hardware handed out free of charge. Thus many "socialist-oriented" African countries have fallen away.

Third, we have stopped (there are extremely rare exceptions) granting state credits for the purchase of Russian hardware. Although, as some of our specialists believe, this is not entirely justified and this tough stance may frighten away many potential buyers. Furthermore, this is customary in world practice: As a rule credit is granted for major purchases, usually at good interest rates.

It is true that payment was not always in currency. Syria, for example, paid partly in phosphates and petroleum. China, which bought a large consignment of Su-27 airplanes, covered part of its debt by means of barter.

Finally, Iraq, a former major buyer of our military hardware, is today excluded from the list of clients in connection with the UN sanctions against it.

In short, Russian weapons manufacturers have to seek new partners today and a place in the weapons market. Russian hardware, as has already been said, is in demand since all the forms of weapons are entirely competitive, which Western experts also acknowledge. The supply of spare parts and servicing have remained traditional weak points.

Due attention is now being paid to this sphere too. In the case of the systems that Russia presented this time at the international show in Abu Dhabi, we are now prepared to offer customers full servicing of weapons and hardware and to supply spare parts and components, and also training for service personnel.

The Russian military-industrial complex is interested in selling its output to foreign consumers not just because of the currency receipts. A steady demand for Russian military hardware will make it possible to lower production volumes fairly smoothly, without making any sharp decrease in the number of jobs. This will make it possible to conduct conversion less sharply, using some of the currency received from the sale of defense enterprises' own output to convert them.

The interdepartmental commission on the Russian Federation's military-technical cooperation with foreign countries, headed by Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha (it includes leaders of the Ministries of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Security, Foreign Economic Relations, Economy, and Finance, the Committee for Defense Sectors of Industry, and the Foreign Intelligence Service) is now being guided in all questions relating to the sale of weapons and military hardware by the Statute on the Russian Federation's Military-Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries ratified by decree of the Russian president in May 1992, and also by relevant government decisions.

A new regulatory document will soon appear—the Law on the Russian Federation's Military-Technical Cooperation With Foreign Countries. Its draft will be examined in the near future by the Russian Supreme Soviet. So specialists believe, this document will stimulate the production of competitive hardware and weapons so that the profit from sales of them on the world market can go into funding top-priority conversion programs.

Security Ministry Denies Role in Chechen Train Explosion

LD0103161293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Moscow March 1 ITAR-TASS—Some news agencies have reported that Russian special services were

involved in the organisation of an explosion in the Kislovodsk-Baku train on Chechen territory, citing a statement by the Chechen President, Dzhokhar Dudayev:

Sources in the Russian Security Ministry called statements of this kind absolutely groundless, indeed absurd. Ministry officials rejected reports on complicity and along with this expressed readiness to help investigate the tragic incident.

As is known, the explosion took place on Sunday when the Kislovodsk-Baku train was travelling via Chechnya. According to preliminary data, the explosive device with a clockwork disguised as a private package was handed to the conductor of a railway car by two unidentified people in Baku to be taken to the station of Mineralnye Vodiy. The explosion was expected to take place at the crowded station of Gudermes, which would have caused many more deaths. But the train was delayed for 30 minutes and the device exploded when the train was underway, killing and injuring several Chechens and one Azer.

Glazyev on Organized Crime's Role in Foreign Economic Relations

OW2602180093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1647 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's Minister of External Economic ties, Sergey Glazyev, believes that "organized crime in foreign economic activity has become a bonanza and industrially organized business" in Russia. Glazyev said at a briefing in Moscow on Friday [26 February] that the worst legal violations occurred in the field of export of strategic raw materials requiring licenses.

Glazyev said it was important to strictly observe the export regime and repatriation of hard currency revenue (about 4.2-4.5 billion dollars paid for strategic materials have failed to reach Russia). The external economic ties minister said the "rumors of corruption at the External Economic Ties Ministry were grossly exaggerated". He said that last year a mere three cases of bribe- taking at the ministry and its foreign trade associations were detected.

The external economic ties minister opposed the idea of a fixed exchange rate of the ruble. He said that in the context of snowballing inflation the measure would drain the country's hard currency resources.

Glazyev said that apart from the licensing of the export of strategic materials the external economic ties ministry was going to carry out a separate registration of the exporters of such goods.

The non-tariff control department chief of External Economic Ties Ministry Mark Kolesnikov has said that the Ministry wished a serious cut in the number of oil exporters. He said that within a month or two the ministry expected a legal act setting rules to give permission to export oil from the Russian Federation.

Officials Hold Briefing on New Counternarcotics Drive

MK2702142493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 21

[Olga Kiyenko report: "International Illicit Drug Business Taps Russia"]

[Text] The 27 February press conference at the Russian Security Ministry focused on the fight against illicit drug smuggling. This is why the meeting with journalists was attended not only by Security Ministry officials, but also by officers from the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Russian State Customs Committee, which are currently operating in close contact with each other.

The main idea of the press conference that was effectively present in every speech was that Russia is facing the threat of being transformed into yet another area of drug trafficking. It is no longer the traditional drug-dealers' transportation routes via Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and so forth that are of primary concern. Foreign drug syndicates have been actively trying to turn Russian into an "opium market." According to Nikolay Kuzmin, department chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry anti-smuggling and anti-corruption administration, Russia is an extremely attractive place for criminals. First, take its geographical position—it is located along major ground and air transportation routes for delivering drugs from producer countries to Western consumers. Second, today the U.S. drug market is sated. Kuzmin said, unlike the European one, to say nothing about the CIS countries. In addition, prices of heroin, cocaine, and other illicit drugs are much higher in West Europe than in America. For these reasons the narcomafia is already beginning to treat Russia as an intermediary testing ground for transshipping illicit drugs to yet "untapped" Western countries.

The first big success was achieved by Russian law enforcement agencies when Internal Affairs Ministry officers together with their counterparts from a Vyborg customs house seized one tonne of cocaine. The consignment was delivered by ship from Colombia to Finland, where it was reloaded onto trucks and sent to Russia. Cocaine was hidden in canned meat jars, the canning done by factory machines. The cocaine jars, each marked with a cross, were placed in a container alongside 20 tonnes of jars with genuine canned meat. The smuggled consignment's total value was around $100 million. It was said at the press conference that some part of the drugs shipment was to stay with Russian middlemen, while the bulk was to be delivered to customers in Europe.

"The illicit drug problem is more acute than ever before," Nikolay Osipov, deputy chief of the Internal Affairs Ministry drug enforcement administration. "In

view of this we have drawn up a special program to combat the illicit drug business that has already been submitted to Boris Yeltsin for approval." He also said that at present Russian special services are trying to conclude agreements with their foreign counterparts on jointly combating illicit drug trafficking, primarily with "traditional" producer countries such as Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, India, Brazil, and so forth. By all appearances, corresponding changes will also be made to the Russian Criminal Code. In Malaysia, the possession of six grams of cocaine may lead to a death sentence, speakers at the press conference said. The press conference's organizers were not yet clear as to what extent the Russian law on drug traffickers will be toughened. But it is quite possible that after some time capital punishment will be in store for Russian drugs traffickers, too.

Baburin KGB Involvement Claims Viewed

PM0203120393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 93 Morning Edition p 8

[Article by Nataliya Gevorkyan: "KGB Agents Can Sleep in Peace"]

[Text] "Sergey Baburin is a KGB agent who went under the pseudonym of 'Nikolay'"—Oleg Kalugin stated at a conference entitled "The KGB: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Perhaps I had not been following the mass media closely enough but in my opinion there was no bombshell effect although it was a case of a notable and active political figure, a leader of the opposition.

Understandably. Public opinion has become as resilient as a well-strung tennis racket—it wards off any sensations. People no longer care whether Baburin was a KGB agent or not.

And Baburin himself? I think he too avoided a nervous breakdown. However strange it may seem, his conclusion coincided with the conclusion of Kalugin, who noted not without irony: "Why should Baburin be offended? After all, I called him an agent of the KGB, not the CIA.

For Baburin, who considers himself a true patriot of this country, the accusation of cooperating with the KGB is no kind of indictment. Cooperation with or rendering what aid one can to the security organs was always the patriotic duty of the Soviet citizen. To this day we have plenty of these patriots. But people say to me: Compare Baburin's situation with the Czech situation. There they have also named the State Security agents among the parliament deputies.

There is no comparison. For any Czech deputy such a charge is a heavy blow. Ignominy. Tragedy. In the context of their life that is logical. The people who arrived with the "velvet revolution" opened the doors of their "Lubyanka" with one hand and politely asked the state security men to leave. With the other hand they printed the archives, including the files on the agents (or rather what was left of them). That is all. There the history of the State Security ended—together with the communist regime. The new people began to form a new state security. A conclusive charge that a deputy has had links with the punishing sword of the former regime means just one thing for that deputy—the loss of his mandate.

I should like to like to see the power which in our country would dare to open the doors of the Lubyanka and say: "Thank you for your work, boys. You are free. We do not need specialists of your kind any more since we shall change the nature of that speciality." I would like to see the hero who would print the KGB archives and files and set Sergey Kovalev, whose decency it is impossible to doubt, to work on them. Then, with the essential legislative basis, it would be possible to relieve at least parliament, the president's entourage, the government and basic state structures of KGB agents. As Kalugin said in a talk with me, Baburin has been named but that in no way means that he is the only agent in parliament. There are others, but they are sitting quietly, in contrast to the overactive "Nikolay."

Both sleepers and active agents of the state security can sleep in peace. We have no law which could disturb their sleep. Even if half the deputies' corps confesses to links with state security that will have no consequences for them. The only thing which threatens Baburin is that some parliamentarians will not shake his hand and some of his voters may complain that they gave their vote to him. But as a whole Baburin's portrait was drawn long ago and "Nikolay" is merely a detail explaining some features of his character.

In the context of our life this is all logical. I am sure that Aleksandr Yakovlev will have to issue a public explanation of his delirious accusations against Kryuchkov, who declared him a CIA agent. But Sergey Baburin will proudly bear the title of "KGB agent," which does not run counter to the deputy's badge on his lapel. Parliament, unshaken, will continue to live its life. The unshaken president will shrug it off, saying: "I cannot be bothered..." In the Lubyanka they will laugh, winking at Feliks Edmundovich [Dzerzhinskiy], whose portrait on the walls of the Russian Federation Ministry of Security compensates for the statue removed from in front of the USSR KGB.

Mir Space Station Mission Progress Updated

LD2602163193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The first month of Gennadiy Manakov's and Alexander Poleshuk's duty on board the "Mir" research complex has expired, ITAR-TASS was told at the Flight Control Centre.

The programme of the crew's work after the station's docking with the automatic "Progress M-16" vehicle includes the unloading of the delivered equipment and some regular maintenance jobs. Replenishment of the tanks of the station's propelling unit has been started

from the reservoirs of the cargo vehicle. The cosmonauts are to carry out maintenance jobs on the air conditioning installation today and to mount a new control panel on the training unit.

According to reports received from the orbit and telemetric data the flight is continuing in accordance with the endorsed timetable.

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Proceedings From 1 Mar Reported

Calls For Extraordinary Congress

LD0103190293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Parliament adopted a decision today to prepare for the holding of an extraordinary, eighth, congress of people's deputies of the Russian Federation. A working group has been set up, to be headed by Nikolay Ryabov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

In the corridors of parliament it is being said, in this connection, that although there has not yet been an official decision to convene the congress, it is a foregone conclusion that such a decision will be made. Last week Head of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov cited 9 or 10 March as possible dates for convening a forum. To all appearances the Supreme Soviet will make the final decision on 4 March.

Studies Draft Constitution Agreement

LD0103164593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By correspondent V. Perfilyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The stand-off between the legislature and executive, which has led to the appearance of two draft constitutional agreements, is once again in the political spotlight. After two weeks of drafting and fine-tuning, and several political time-outs, people's deputies today began scrutinizing the president's version.

[Perfilyev] The Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet today forwarded to parliamentary committees and commissions the draft agreement on the federal legislature and executive for stabilizing the constitutional system until a new constitution can be adopted. The draft was submitted by President Boris Yeltsin on 17 February. The Presidium instructed the committee on legislation to sum up parliamentarians' comments and submit them to a joint sitting of the chambers on 5 March. One of the key points of the president's draft constitutional agreement is a clause on non- interference in the executive arm's prerogatives and upholding the principle of division of power.

Further on Draft Constitution

LD0103201993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1718 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASs—The Presidium of the Russian Parliament has returned to parliamentary committees and commissions a draft law on changes and amendments to the Russian Constitution.

Vladimir Isakov, a member of the opposition bloc Russian Unity, who presented the bill, said the current crisis in the Russian power structures was caused by the inefficient mechanism of power delineation in Russia. There are two centres of executive power in Russia—one is headed by the president and the other by the chairman of the Council of Ministers. An analysis of legislatory enactments shows that both centres adopt contradictory decisions. As a result, the presidential apparatus repeats the functions of the government which should act as an independent body responsible for the economic and social situation in the country.

The bill calls for re-distributing powers between the executive and legislative branches. Under the bill, the president of the Russian Federation, while remaining the top executive officer, cannot be the head of the executive branch. The chairman of the Council of Ministers is appointed by the president with consent of the Supreme Soviet. Appointment of cabinet members is the prerogative of the prime minister. Proposals on the structure of the government should also be made by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Presidium members criticised the bill as impairing the existing system of state security and running counter to the decisions of the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. Therefore it is unacceptable and needs more studying in committees and commissions of the Russian Parliament, the presidium said.

Committees To Study START II

OW0103181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The issue concerning preparations for the ratification of the START-2 treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States on the future reduction and restriction of strategic offensive weapons received no opposition in parliament Monday [1 March]. It was included in a number of draft laws to be submitted to parliamentary committees and commissions for discussion.

A series of parliamentary hearings on the political, strategic, administrative and economic aspects of the treaty is expected to precede the eventual ratification of the document.

Hearings Held on Restructuring Army

LD0103163393 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By parliamentary correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy, from the Supreme Soviet building on Krasnopresnya Embankment; from the "New Wave" program]

[Excerpts] Good day, I am actually at the Supreme Soviet building on the Krasnopresnya Embankment. Very important parliamentary hearings, into reshaping of the Russian army, are being held here today. There are three points of view on reform of the Russian army at the moment. Ruslan Khasbulatov, the parliament chairman, for example, says that army reform has been completed. Defense Minister Grachev believes that army reform is continuing. But the people's deputies who are holding these hearings today take a different view. These deputies, who belong to a large parliamentary group known as Army Reform which was established at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, believe that no real reform is taking place in the army. It was claimed here today that tyranny, theft, and corruption are still rife in the army, that the combat readiness and military discipline of troops is becoming lax.

Although various Congresses of People's Deputies have called for the establishment of an army which would be compatible with a democratic state, this demand has not been met. In other words, they claim that reform is not happening. In view of this it is even being suggested here that the dismissal of Defense Minister Grachev should be considered.

A very great deal of evidence about corruption and the sale of army assets both in Russia and abroad was cited here today. Those notorious generals' dachas came up again, of course. An answer to this problem is very elusive. [passage omitted] The evidence of corruption in the armed forces is being taken very seriously here at the Supreme Soviet. A figure which was mentioned - 132 million rubles - was actually calculated at 1991 prices. We're now talking about billions of rubles for the generals' dachas alone - just the ones near Moscow.

The hearings are continuing. I think there will be some kind of final result by this evening.

Preparations for 11 Apr Referendum Eyed

LD0103203993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1734 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By the ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Yuriy Filippov]

[Text] Moscow March 1 TASS—Preparations for the Russian national referendum scheduled for April 11 are proceeding according to plan, Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Vasiliy Kazakov told the presidium of the Russian Parliament today.

According to Kazakov, nearly 100,000 constituencies have been formed in the country's 89 electoral areas. They will begin to compile lists of eligible voters on March 20.

The Electoral Commission is now considering the participation in the referendum of the Russian servicemen stationed abroad.

According to Kazakov, the referendum will be held as scheduled only if, in accordance with the rules for holding plebiscites of this kind, the Russian Parliament submits to the Central Electoral Commission the text to be put to the vote agreed with the president thirty days before the voting begins, that is on March 12.

Army Reform; Media Issues Discussed

LD0103223193

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 2045 GMT on 1 March carries a 15-minute program conducted by Yeleba Ozrina on today's Supreme Soviet sitting, which was held in committees and commissions. She first visits the Soviet of Nationalities, where hearings into reform of the army are under way, hosted by the "Army Reform" deputies group. The program includes recorded excerpts from speeches by the group coordinator V.P. Anishchev and People's Deputy V.G. Urazhtsev. Both speeches concentrate on dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Defense, which Anishchev says was reviled by officers he visited in the Baltics, and which Urazhtsev accuses of hiding since none of its invited representatives put in an appearance at the hearings. Ozrina then interviews A.K. Kopeyka, one of the authors of a draft law on the television and radio broadcasting service of the Russian Federation, which is currently under discussion at the Committee on the Mass Media. The draft law was not accepted in its first reading, a fact which Kopeyka attributes to disagreement on the policies of broadcasting rather than on legal niceties. He believes that while the law on the mass media stipulates that the media should be free and independent, both sides in the conflict between executive and legislative authority are seeking to use television and radio as powerful ideological weapons.

It is the job of his committee to use the media to seek a rapprochement between all sides, Kopeyka says. He denies allegations of political censorship, for example, by pointing to the great variety of politicians who appear on both Russian Television and Ostankino. He cites as an example of the compromise approach the first reading's proposal of a regulating body, a federal commission on television and radio broadcasting, with regional counterparts, to be made up of eight people, four selected by the president and four by the Supreme Soviet. This was specifically rejected by some deputies, who wanted all its members to be chosen by the Supreme Soviet. He stresses that the state should regulate but not control broadcasting.

Schedule for Supreme Soviet Hearings on START II

PM0103115693 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Sergey Ovsiyenko report: "How the START II Treaty Will Be Ratified"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions has approved a plan for holding parliamentary hearings on the START II Treaty. The hearings will begin 2 March with the question of the treaty's main provisions and its connection with the START I Treaty. A week later it is proposed to hear an analysis of possible changes in the strategic concepts of the nuclear countries in connection with the conclusion of the START II Treaty, including questions of the further development of work under the SDI program.

The next question is that of the comparative analysis of limitations imposed on the sides by the START II Treaty and their effect on the necessary quantitative and qualitative changes in the existing Russian and U.S. groupings. It is planned on 22 March to discuss the prospects for further development of treaty processes in the sphere of strategic offensive arms, tactical nuclear weapons, and their nonproliferation. On 29 March it is proposed to hear questions of the significance of the START II Treaty for ensuring Russia's defense capability.

The lowering of the level of strategic offensive arms, says Colonel Vladimir Dvorkin, representative of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Central Scientific Research Institute, commenting on the START II Treaty, leads to a leveling out of the deterrent potentials of the Russian and U.S. nuclear groupings, and consequently to a strengthening of military-strategic stability. However, deep cuts in strategic offensive weapons must be linked to the limiting of the influence of such destabilizing factors as the development [razvertyvaniye] of ABM defense, the formation of coalitions of nuclear states against Russia, the possible effects of high-precision weapons on strategic facilities in the course of the nonnuclear period of hostilities, and the development of space reconnaissance.

As for economic aspects of the START II Treaty, the possibility of reequipping 90 heavy missile launch silos and converting 105 MIRVed missiles into single-warhead missiles by reducing to one the number of warheads on each of them will enable Russia to carry out arms reduction and the introduction of stationary missiles of the SS-25 type at a less intensive pace, thereby reducing costs. Moreover the need to create new manufacturing capacities in Russia and to modernize MIRVed ICBM's disappears. Preliminary analysis shows that the total savings attached to the development of Russia's strategic nuclear forces under the terms of the START II Treaty as compared with the START I Treaty could amount to 80-90 billion rubles over 10 years.

The assessment of the military-strategic equilibrium is based on comparison of the counterforce and deterrent potential of the sides' ICBM and SLBM groupings. Under the terms of the START II Treaty Russia's counterforce potential is halved, because of the elimination of MIRVed ICBM's. At the same time the analogous potential of the U.S. strategic offensive forces is reduced by a factor of four to five. As a result the correlation between the sides' counterforce potential shifts from 3.5 to 1 (in favor of the United States) under the terms of the START I Treaty to 1.4 to 1 under the terms of the START II Treaty.

Supreme Soviet Ratifies Treaty on Armenian Armed Forces

LD2602120293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Report by Mariya Vasilyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The discussion of the agenda today continued for more than an hour. The deputies determinedly tried to pack it with the issues that are currently provoking political passions. Primarily, these are the issues of the constitutional agreement, the referendum, and the extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies. [passage omitted]

Today, the Supreme Soviet also ratified the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Armenia on the legal status of the Armed Forces stationed on the territory of the Republic of Armenia.

Draft Resolution on Parliamentary TV Channel Postponed

OW0103195293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian parliament ruled for the time being not to submit to the Supreme Council a draft law on the creation of a parliamentary TV and radio channel within the framework of the Russian TV and radio company. According to the draft, it was planned to allocate for that purpose $3 million and 500 million rubles.

Deputy Chairman of the parliamentary committee on mass media Aleksandr Kopeika said that this document "had been discussed preliminarily in none of the parliamentary committees". Kopeika told IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent that the draft "had been worked out by a person who was promised the post of the head of the parliamentary TV and radio channel".

Parliament Ratifies Treaty With China

LD2602185393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A joint session of the chambers of the Russian parliament today ratified a treaty with China on legal aid in civil and criminal actions. It was signed on 19 June last year in Beijing. The document provides for the citizens of both countries on each other's territory to have equal legal protection regarding their personal and property rights.

Regional Affairs

Final Results of Ingush Presidential Elections

Voter Turnout 70 Percent

LD2802131893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Elections to the post of first president of the republic are taking place in Ingushetia today. Magomed Sakalov, the chairman of the central electoral commission, told our correspondent that almost 71 percent of the electorate had already voted by 1300 local time. [passage omitted]

Sakalov noted that observers from various republics, in particular, from Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Chechnya, had arrived in Nazran to observe any irregularities, should they take place. He emphasized that no disturbances at polling stations had been registered. Long lines of people wanting to vote were observed and not all the polling stations were able to cope quickly with such an influx of people. [passage omitted]

The electoral commission chairman does not think it is remarkable that the elections for the head of the republic are taking place with only one candidate. He emphasized that the commission was ready to register any number of candidates, however, the people did not present anyone other than Aushev. This fact once more confirms the candidate's popularity with the population.

The polling booths will be open until 2200 [local time] and the results of the elections are due to be announced on 2 March. The presidential inauguration will take place 6-7 March.

Election Proceeds 'Without Incidents'

OW2802131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 55 to 60

of voters cast their ballots in the presidential elections in Ingushetia by 12:00 on Sunday [28 February]. IF [INTERFAX] learned this from the head of the local interim administration, Magomed Sultygov. According to him, the elections are progressing without incidents.

On Saturday in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) the only presidential candidate, Major-General Ruslan Aushev, conferred with ethnic Ossets and Ingushes who had fought in the Afghan war. The men brought humanitarian aid to the conflict area.

In the meantime, as IF's correspondent reports from the capital of Chechnya, Groznyy, more than 6,000 Ingushes, most of whom are refugees from the area of the conflict between Ossets and Ingushes, have taken part in the presidential elections in Ingushetia. When the voting is over, the sealed ballot boxes will be taken to Nazran.

Final Outcome Due 1 Mar

LD2802175193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1657 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov and correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Nazran February 28 TASS—One may say with confidence now that the elections of the Ingush Republic's first president did take place. Major General Ruslan Aushev, the 38-year-old candidate for this post who fought in the war in Afghanistan, is likely to become the first president of the youngest of the republics.

Over 60 percent of voters in four election districts, including refugees from North Ossetia's Prigorodniy district cast their ballots by 15:00, according to the Central Election Commission.

The ITAR-TASS special correspondent who toured several constituencies got convinced that elections are held orderly, without any complications. Observers from Georgia, Azerbaijan, the North Caucasian republics and various public organisations and movements, who arrived in the republic, do not record any violations of the voting procedure. The Central Election Commission received tens of telegrams from various cities of the Commonwealth of Independent States where representatives of the Ingush diaspora vote for Aushev's candidacy.

Aushev himself is in Moscow today. His arrival in Ingushetia is expected tomorrow. The final outcome of the ballot will be known by Monday afternoon.

Aushev Receives Majority

LD0103013693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2355 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran, 1 March—Unusually high activity in voting in the presidential elections has been displayed by the population of Ingushetia. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Central Electoral Commission of the republic, on Sunday evening [28 February] the number of electors who had cast their votes had reached

97.1 percent. No breaches of the provisions on the elections were recorded. The final results will be announced at 11 o'clock on Monday at an extended press conference.

The absolute majority of the population of the Ingush Republic demonstrated its complete support for 38-year-old General Ruslan Aushev and agreement with the provisions of his pre-election program. The determination of the borders of the Ingush Republic and the emergence of its structure of power and earliest resolution of the problem of the status of the Prigorodnyy rayon of Northern Ossetia are set as the principle tasks.

Aushev To Meet North Ossetian Prime Minister

OW0103144793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Interfax has been informed in Vladikavkaz that a meeting between North Ossetian Prime Minister Sergey Khetagurova and newly elected First President of Ingushetia Ruslan Aushev may take place in Kislovodsk (Stavropol region) on Tuesday, March 2. Ways to stabilize relations between Ossetia and Ingushetia are expected to be discussed.

Details of Vote Given

LD0103174893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1645 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Nazran (North Caucasus), 1 Mar—Ruslan Aushev has been elected the first president of Ingushetia. The official and final results of the elections were announced this evening at a news conference here by Central Electoral Commission Chairman Magomet Sakalov. Of those taking part in the voting, 99.99 percent voted "for" Ruslan Aushev, or 142,223 people. Sixty-four electors voted "against." Twenty-one voting slips were declared invalid.

There were 153,590 people on the electoral role for the 113 constituencies. Taking part in the voting were 142,318 persons, or 92.66 percent of the electorate.

The chairman of the Central Electoral Commission explained that the votes of electors who voted in various CIS towns were not taken into account in the election results.

Curfew Imposed in Parts of Chechnya, Ingushetia

LD0103161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz March 1 TASS—Major-General Aleksandr Kotenkov, the head of the temporary administration in Ingushetia and North Ossetia, issued an order today imposing a curfew on the territory of the Malogbek and Sunzhenyy districts of the Ingush Republic and the Mozdok district of North Ossetia.

The measure was necessitated by the aggravation of the political situation in Chechen Republic, frequent acts of provocation on the part of armed formations of this republic and the worsening of the criminal situation, all of which contribute to violations of the state of emergency.

Ossetian Militia Commander Warns of More Conflict

OW0103145893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1402 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] North Ossetian Parliamentary Deputy and Commander of the National Militia Bimbulat Dzutsev considers that there will be "no peace in the conflict zone between Ossetia and Ingushetia during the next three to four years." He said that the Ingush were preparing to step up hostilities. "We too are not idle," Dzutsev told Interfax.

The commander said that it was too early to disband the Ossetian Guard, despite the agreements reached at the Kislovodsk peace talks. This, he continued, was because "no one, including Russia, is able to provide a safety guarantee." The Ossetian guardsmen are believed to be preparing to form two interior ministry patrol regiments after passing medical examinations. The militiamen will join the interior guard and will protect vital installations in the republic (dams, large enterprises, highways, bridges etc.).

Implications of Kuzbass Miners' Strike Viewed

PM0103164193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 4

[Viktor Kostyukovskiy report: "Major Strike Could Ruin the Miners Themselves"]

[Excerpts] The strike declared by the Kuzbass Independent Miners' Union [IMU] is set to begin 1 March. So far, it is planned as a 10-day, "soft" strike—coal extraction will continue, but dispatch to consumers will cease. What is more, this will by no means affect the whole of the Kuzbass, only those places where the IMU held a referendum. In this form, the strike could lead to certain hiccups in the economy, but catastrophic consequences are not predicted.

But then what? The IMU has warned that unless its demands are examined and met the strike will take on a more severe and, we can safely assume, probably a more widespread character. In this case, its consequences for the economy would be destructive, while for many mining enterprises they would even prove suicidal. After all, on the very same day—1 March—the law on bankruptcy comes into force... [passage omitted]

It has to be said that recent days have spawned real hopes that the matter will not go to extremes. First, IMU leaders from Russia's coal regions finally met with government members and began consultations. Second, intensive preparations are under way for the president's edict on immediate measures to stabilize the economy in Kemerovo Oblast for the purposes of developing Russia's fuel and energy complex. The draft's content distinctly incorporates IMU demands, and what is more it is clear that this document will affect the fundamental way of life of all the country's miners. Finally, legislative measures in this area are being prepared with equal intensity: A representative committee of the Supreme Soviet is already functioning in the the Kuzbass.

Two years have passed since the first political strike by the miners, and its role becomes more distinct with time. At that time (not only through the actions of the miners, although this first and foremost) the aggression of Communist revanchism [komrevanshizm], and a drift by the Union leadership, especially the then president, toward concessions to the revanchists were successfully halted. Now this threat is less acute.

The workers movement is in crisis. Born as an opposition movement, it has in many ways lost sight of its essential function over the past year. This is understandable—after all, a government which immediately embarked on the reforms for which the miners were fighting came to power. Distortions during the reforms, production costs, and the drop in living standards—none of this overshadowed the main thing, which is that the reforms are under way nevertheless. It is no accident that only once in all this time did the IMU declare a prestrike situation for a brief period, and then the demands boiled down to reminding the president and government of the unacceptability of deviating from the strategic policy of reforms. Gradually the independent trade union took up a leading role in the movement. But is it capable of reacting to changes in the political situation as sharply as the workers' committees did before this? Hardly... However, it should not be forgotten: The first miner's strike of 1989 started with soap and "lunch boxes," but by the second or third day its political traits became ever more clearly visible.

Labor Union Leader Urges Strike Suspension

LD0103203193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1720 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By the ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigory Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo western Siberia March 1 TASS—The strike which began in some collieries in Kuzbass today may be stopped on Tuesday [2 March] if the striking miners heed the call of Vyacheslav Sharipov, the leader of the independent Labour Union.

Sharipov sent telegrams to the striking miners saying the Russian Government has not ignored the miners' demands and favours dialogue with their labour unions.

Strike Suspended Until 10 Mar

LD0203062193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0614 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS Grigory Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo March 2 TASS—The striking miners in Kuzbass have suspended their strike until March 10, responding to the call from the leaders of the independent miners' labour union, ITAR-TASS was told by union sources. The union leaders told the striking miners the Russian Government was heeding their demands and was ready for talks with labour union representatives.

The Independent Labour Union of Kuzbass Miners has decided to hold a meeting of the union's executive council and the council of workers' committees on Thursday, March 4, instead of Wednesday, March 3, as decided earlier, in the city of Prokopievsk. The meeting is to decide on tactics of the Independent Labour Union after the suspension of the strike ends on March 10.

According to the labour union sources, collectives of 43 mines joined the strike on Monday, March 1, but there were no major disruptions in the work of the industry as a whole. Nearly 4,500 wagon-loads of coal were dispatched to consumers—approximately the number usually sent from the mines at the beginning of the month. The same number of wagons will be dispatched to consumers in Russia today.

Vorkuta Miners Strike Over Economic, Political Demands

LD0103231293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By unidentified correspondent; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At 0500 on 1 March, 11 mines in Vorkuta came to a standstill. The remaining three mines joined them later. The strike became a general one. The extraction and delivery of coal has completely stopped. According to various sources, only two mining collectives have not joined the strike in Inta. Rallies and meetings are being held in many coal enterprises. The main demands are to suspend the decree on privatization of mines, to ensure state subsidies for the industry, and to work out a government program for the closure of unprofitable mines. There are also political demands, from the immediate conclusion of a constitutional agreement to the abolition of the Congress of People's Deputies and the introduction of direct presidential rule. These demands, however, are not included in official resolutions. The independent miners' unions have taken responsibility for the strike. Their leaders claim that the strike is being conducted in an organized way and that it will be suspended in the morning of 2 March.

International Affairs

Government Critical of Yeltsin UN Bid for 'Special Powers'

OW0103194493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] No one in Ukraine was asking Russia's President Yeltsin to appeal to the UN for "special powers to Russia as a guarantor of peace and stability on the territory of the former Soviet Union," reads the statement circulated by the Ukrainian foreign ministry on Monday [1 March].

"Practical implementation of this concept," the document continues, "is likely to produce blatant violation of all the existing norms of international law."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin raised the issue of special powers to Russia in his speech Saturday at the Civic Union congress in Moscow.

In the opinion expressed by Kiev, Russia's aspiration to assume upon itself this role spells the danger of a situation to develop when "one of the CIS member countries would be given 'police' functions." This would ineluctably lead to a dictatorship and infringement on the internal affairs of the other states, and, "as a consequence, threaten Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement says.

The Ukrainian foreign ministry is sending a special appeal to the UN Secretary General where it presents its attitude in this regard.

Bulgarian Military Delegation Arrives for Visit

AU2502161793 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 20 Feb 93 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Text] A delegation of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army with General Lyuben Petrov, its chief, at the head, visited Ukraine. The guest had a meeting with Colonel General Konstyantyn Morozov, minister of defense. They discussed the military policy of the two countries and the cooperation in this sphere, first and foremost, between the naval forces. Lyuben Petrov visited Starokostyantyniv, a rayon center, where he was shown a cantonment in the construction of which Bulgarian builders participated.

Kiev To Host North Atlantic Assembly Seminar 20-23 Jun

AU2702162493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Feb 93 p 2

["Decree Adopted by the Presidium of Ukraine's Supreme Council on Organizing the Work of a Seminar of the North Atlantic Assembly" issued in Kiev on 12 February]

[Text] The Presidium of Ukraine's Supreme Council decrees as follows:

1. To agree with the proposal by Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security on holding in Kiev on 20-23 June 1993 a seminar of the North Atlantic Assembly on problems of overcoming the consequences of the "Cold War."

2. To ensure the preparation for and work of the seminar, to create an organizational committee in the following composition:

DURDYNETS, Vasyl Vasylyovych—first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council (chairman of the committee).

LEMISH, Valentyn Panteliyovych—chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security.

HORYN, Bohdan Mykolayovych—deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs.

IZMALKOV, Valeriy Mykolayovych—chairman of the subcommission for questions of social protection of servicemen at Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Defense and State Security.

BONDARENKO, Hryhoriy Ivanovych—in charge of the affairs of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

SHARAYEV, Leonid Havrylovych—first deputy chief of the Secretariat of Ukraine's Supreme Council, in charge of the service for organizational provision.

3. The organizational committee must do as follows:

—inform the leadership of the North Atlantic Assembly about Ukraine's consent to hold the seminar;

—prepare, jointly with the International Secretariat of the North Atlantic Assembly, plans for organizational provision and work of the seminar and to submit them, by 5 April 1993, to the chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council for approval.

4. To authorize the leadership of the Secretariat and the Administration for the Affairs of Ukraine's Supreme Council to ensure material and financial provision of the seminar (transport within the city, renting premises, and buying the stationery). The Assembly will take care of all currency expenditure necessary for the accommodation of guests in the hotel (about 60 parliamentarians from countries that are members of the North Atlantic Assembly), their arrival in Kiev and departure from there.

[Signed] I. Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council

[Dated] Kiev, 12 February 1993

Russian Party of Crimea Holds Constituent Congress

MK2602112893 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Russian Party of Crimea—Party of the Russians?"]

[Text] **Newly created party leaders claim that it will be open to people of any nationality**

The constituent conference of the Russian Party of Crimea [Russkaya Partiya Kryma] was held under the banners of the former USSR, the Russian empire, modern-day Russia, and the Republic of Crimea. Placed in front of the presidium table was the state flag of the Iraqi Republic. When asked by a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent why the Iraqi flag was there, Crimean People's Deputy Sergey Shuvalnikov, chairman of the conference's organizing committee, said: "Some guys from the Liberal Democratic Party went there and were given the flag as a gift." The chairman of the Crimean branch of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, who was standing nearby, added: "Russia and Iraq have common aims. They are struggling to regain the so-called Kuwait that was unlawfully seized, while we are struggling for the restoration of great Russia, including the return of the Republic of Crimea to the motherland. We express solidarity with the Iraqi leadership and personally with Saddam Husayn." Sergey Shuvalnikov made no objection to these words.

Opening the conference, Sergey Shuvalnikov said that after Crimea was joined to Ukraine and Ukrainians began to settle there, "Russian culture on the peninsula withered." He noted that today the Russian issue is more acute than ever, and "people want to be aware that they are Russians, so the chief aim of our party is to struggle to bring Crimea back into Russia." Aleksey Sergiyevskiy from the Ukrainian city of Kremenchug put it as follows: "Ukraine cannot be independent. We need a Russian Party, not of Crimea, but of Ukraine." The conference heard a lot of angry words about Yeltsin and Kravchuk.

Crimean People's Deputy Vladimir Leshchenko warned the delegates against setting up a party along ethnic lines, as he said: "We know what the class struggle unleashed by the Bolsheviks led to. Now we want to divide people along ethnic lines so that they will accuse each other of all the catastrophes that happen to them. We should therefore understand what sort of genie we are letting out of the bottle." Anatoliy Los, chairman of the Crimean Russian Society, who was also a delegate to the conference, was quick to retort: "Anyone who considers himself a Russian, who has been brought up on Russian culture, and who speaks Russian can be a member of our party." He added that "all of us—are Russian citizens [Rossiyane] of Russian, Ukrainian, Crimean Tatar, or other origin."

There were also calls to prepare for armed resistance against "the onslaught of Ukrainian nationalism," and for the time being to join Russian vigilante units to protect our "blood brothers, the Bosnian Serbs and the Slavs of the Dniester region." Another delegate, Aleksey Rutkovskiy, speaking on behalf of the Slavic Council [Slavyanskiy Sobor], conveyed greetings to the conference from the Russian National Council [Russkiy Natsionalnyy Sobor] and General Sterligov personally, and called on the audience to fight against "the offensive of Ukrainian militarism."

The conference adopted the program and the rules of the Russian Party of Crimea. The program says that the party will be guided only by the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea. Its chief aim is to protect the interests of Crimeans as the fundamental guarantors of the peninsula's statehood. Any citizen of Crimea aged 18 years and above may join the party, which is open to all ethnic groups and nationalities living in Crimea. The party's supreme body is a conference or a congress that will be convened at least once a year. In the period between conferences, the party's supreme body will be the Duma [Council].

Among other things, the conference adopted a statement denouncing "the destructive forces of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian peoples."

Crimean People's Deputy Sergey Shuvalnikov was elected from a number of candidates by open ballot as chairman of the Russian Party of Crimea.

At a press conference that followed, the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent asked Shuvalnikov to cite examples of discrimination against Russians in Crimea. He said: "We have seen our relations with Russian artistic organizations cut, and Crimea has been made a foreign country. This is one thing. For another, there is the suppression of the 200-year period when Crimea was part of Russia. Russians fought for this land, they worked here. In addition, the ban on dual citizenship is discrimination. Let the Ukrainians who live here call themselves citizens of both the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine if they wish, but we want to be citizens of the Republic of Crimea and Russia.

"But the Ukrainians do not have a single school in Crimea," the correspondent said.

"They do not want to learn Ukrainian. Everybody speaks Russian, and that is fine," Shuvalnikov concluded.

Currently, it is hard to say how many Russians, Ukrainians, or people of other ethnic origin may join the Russian Party of Crimea. Refat Chubarov, deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatar people's majlis, told the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, however, that "none of the Crimean Tatars will join the Russian Party of Crimea, although many of our countrymen are members of Rukh, the Ukrainian Republican Party, and other national movements and parties of the sovereign Ukraine."

Supreme Council Prepares for START I Debate

LD2602124593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The preparatory period for holding hearings regarding ratification of START I, the treaty on reducing strategic offensive weapons, is continuing at the Ukraine Supreme Council. A large group of experts, among whom are well-known politologists, scientists, and military specialists, have been brought into this analytical work. It concerns the necessity of all around studying and (?taking into account) the whole complex of external political, economic, and technical issues. A special parliamentary commission is preparing all of the proper documents for presentation to the session sittings of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

Kiev Unable To Solve Problem of Return of Crimean Tatars

OW0203130393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1149 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Crimean parliament, Nikolay Bagrov, stated that the local authorities were ready to receive all of the Crimean Tatars willing to come back home. "However, neither the Crimea, nor Ukraine can tackle this problem on its own," he told journalists in Simferopol.

More than 200,000 Crimean Tatars have returned to the Crimea already, but 300,000 still live outside the Crimea, mostly in the Central Asian republics, where they were exiled in 1944.

Bagrov also said that during a Ukrainian governmental delegation's recent tour of the Central Asian republics, problems pertaining to the return of the Crimean Tatars to the Crimea were discussed.

Ukraine is ready to bear 50% of the expenses related to the return of the Crimean Tatars. The other 50% must be borne by the governments of the republics, where Crimean Tatars now live. Ukraine proposed that Uzbekistan bear 30% of the expenses, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan - 4% each, and Russia - 12%.

Bagrov said that a few days ago, the Crimean Republic signed the agreement on economic cooperation with Yakutia (a republic of the Russian Federation). According to it, Yakutia will invest more than 1 billion rubles in the Crimean economy. A greater part of this sum will be spent on the construction of enterprises for processing agricultural produce. Yakutia is also going to finance the construction of holiday and health centers on the coast of the Crimea.

National Affairs

Communists To Hold Republican Conference in Donetsk

OW0103150993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 6, Ukrainian communists will conduct a republican conference in the center of Ukraine's coal producing region, the city of Donetsk. It is expected that many former leaders of provincial and regional committees of the Ukrainian communist party, who were dismissed by the parliament following the August 1991 coup attempt are to participate in the conference. Stanislav Gurenko, the former first secretary of Ukraine's communist party, is among the members of the organizational committee.

In January the communists intended to conduct their first conference in Odessa, but city authorities opposed this idea.

The 7th session of the Ukrainian parliament, which is to resume its work on Tuesday, will consider permitting communists to resume political activities. Currently over 200 deputies, who managed to introduce this issue into the session's agenda, support this idea.

Meanwhile the Donetsk branch of Ukraine's Anti-communist bloc intends to organize pickets at the building in which the communists will conduct their conference.

Donetsk Groups Oppose Congress

LD2702233593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A statement by a number of political organizations and parties, among which are the Donetsk sections of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the All-Ukrainian Society of Political Prisoners and Repressed Persons, and the Democratic Party of Ukraine, was made public at a session of the oblast council of people's deputies of Donetsk Oblast on 26 February. The document contains a demand that the all-Ukrainian conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union-Communist Party of Ukraine should not be allowed to take place in Donetsk on 6 March. This was reported by Volodymyr Hryshkin, deputy chairman of the Donetsk oblast organization of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists.

Kravchuk Meets With Donetsk Farmers, Hears Problems

PM0203095193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 2

[Antonin Bogachuk report under the "End-of-Winter News" rubric: "Lard for the President Only"]

[Text] Donetsk— When Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived at the "Uglegorskiy" hog-raising complex the other day he was met not just with the traditional bread and salt of hospitality, but was also given pieces of lard. This is also a tradition, but one which is becoming inaccessible to many this year. At the market in Donetsk you have to pay up to 1,500 Ukrainian karbovanets for a kilo of lard. The same "Uglegorskiy" hog-raising complex—one of the five biggest in the republic—has drastically reduced its output of pork.

As the president was told by the farm leaders and stockraisers of Donetsk Oblast who came to the meeting with him, rural dwellers have been forced to reduce stock numbers because of the shortage of feed, the disruption of economic ties with Russia, and the low purchase prices for livestock products. In his response the president spoke approvingly of the country dwellers and said correctly that the historical fate of the two states binds us very firmly together. And for that reason it is time for Russia and Ukraine to stop seeking out mutual grievances. And who is against that, then, Leonid Makarovich?!

Minister Supports Citizenship Law Regarding Army

LD2802232093 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] If the issue of devotion to the state is removed when the Ukrainian Armed Forces are manned with command cadres, it will be a direct path to ruining the concept of Armed Forces' belonging to a state. This idea was put forward on the pages of the newspaper MOLODA HVARDYYA [YOUNG GUARD] by Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov. In his words, that could also lead to losing the ability to form an independent military policy and even to losing the state's independence. Morozov supported the relevant Ukrainian law which stipulates that citizenship and not nationality is the main principle in manning armed forces. However, stressed Kostyantyn Morozov, it is necessary nevertheless to be very careful and have respect for a person in implemention of the manning policy of the army based on the principle of belonging to the nation.

Congress of Trade Unions To Be Formed in Armed Forces

LD0103222993 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1933 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev, 1 Mar—A meeting of trade union representatives of Ukrainian servicemen has been held, and resolved to form a congress of trade unions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the National Guard on 16 May 1993. Reserve Colonel Aleksandr Slyusarev was elected chairman of the organizing committee for convening the congress.

Let us recall that a few days earlier the Ukrainian defense minister proposed to the controlling personnel of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of the Armed Forces services, and troops of the military districts to refrain from forming trade union organizations for servicemen. The leader of the country's military department stressed that the draft Ukrainian law on trade unions has not yet been elaborated and that the presence of trade union organizations among servicemen in the Armed Forces is not envisaged by current legislation.

Kravchuk Urges Making Sevastopol Free Trade Area

OW2602225093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The president of Ukraine instructed the government to work out and submit to parliament a bill on the status of a special economic zone for the city of Sevastopol, Interfax was told in the presidential office.

Earlier, in an interview to the Crimean television he said that giving Sevastopol, the base of the Black Sea Fleet, the status of a free trade area could "make a major contribution to solution of the city's social and economic problems."

The movement for transferring the city to Russia's jurisdiction has recently gained momentum in this city where more than half of the population are ethnic Russians. In early January the Russian parliament had decided to consider the status of Sevastopol in the first quarter of this year.

Kravchuk Approves Donetsk-Dnieper Corporation

PM0103120593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 93 First Edition p 7

[Unattributed report under "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric: "Donbass Takes Step Toward Free Economic Zone"]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has supported the proposal of the Donetsk and Interregional Association of Industrialists to set up the Donetsk-Dnieper Industrial Corporation.

It is a question of a corporation with a single center for management of the whole economy. Moreover, the corporation's organ of management will also simultaneously resolve the majority of the social problems of the region, which is supposedly to include several neighboring oblasts. The Donbass is continuing to press for the creation of a free economic zone.

Cabinet of Ministers Obligates Fuel for Agriculture

LD2702234793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] In connection with the extremely tense situation regarding petroleum product resources in Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers has obligated the Council of Ministers of the Republic of the Crimea, the oblast and city of Kiev, and the city of Sevastopol state administrations to channel 80 percent of motor vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel to consumers in agriculture, leaving 20 percent to provide for the activities of towns and urban settlements, from 1 March to 31 March. The sale of fuel to individual motor vehicle owners has been prohibited.

Belarus

Romanian Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Malescanu Meets With Kravchanka

AU0103153493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1232 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/3/1993—Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu and his Belarus counterpart Petr Kravchanka, who head delegations of high functionaries and experts of their ministries conduct official talks in Minsk. The two delegations focus on the Treaty of Friendship and Collaboration between Romania and Belarus.

The document is expected to be initialed at the close of the talks. As is known, the conclusion of this fundamental political document of the Romania-Belarus relations had been agreed upon during Romanian President Ion Iliescu's visit in Minsk last July. Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu's visit will also occasion the signing of other documents of collaboration between the two countries.

Today's schedule of the visit includes talks between Malescanu and the chairman of the Belarus State Committee on Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Radkevich and with Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Voytovich.

Ministers Sign Treaties

WS0103140693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1300 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Teodor Viorel Malescanu is paying an official visit to our Republic. Today he held talks with Belarusian Minister of Foreign Affairs Petr Kravchanka. As a result of the talks, the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries was ratified, and an agreement on mutual non-visa official travel was signed. The ministers also exchanged notes on mutual non-visa transit of Belarusian and Romanian citizens via the territory of these states to third countries.

Ministers Cited on Talks

LD0103220893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2136 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Tatyana Khryagina]

[Text] Minsk March 2 TASS—Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with the head of the Belarusian foreign policy establishment and its staff. Malescanu arrived in Minsk on an official visit on Sunday [28 February] evening.

He noted that the talk held, the signing of an agreement on visa-free business trips and the initialling of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Romania and Belarus laid down a good foundation for the development of bilateral relations on new democratic principles.

Malescanu put special emphasis on the second political document which is expected to be signed during Belarusian Parliament Leader Stanislav Shushkevich's official visit to Bucharest in the first half of this year.

"The dynamically developing relations between Romania and Belarus can serve as an example in forming links with other CIS states," Malescanu stressed. "Our countries' ample potential opens good prospects for cooperation in politics, the economy, culture, public health service and science."

Belarusian Minister Petr Kravchanka said talk focused on interaction in the international arena, in the field of security and also issues associated with the situation in the CIS and Belarus's role as the commonwealth's coordinating center.

On the treaty initialled today, Kravchanka noted that Romania is the third country with which Belarus will sign a political document on interaction, cooperation and friendship.

On the same day, Malescanu conferred with Belarusian State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Head Vladimir Radkevich and Culture Minister Yevgeniy Voytovich.

Malescanu will continue to stay in Minsk on Tuesday.

CIS Representative Appeals to Parliament Leaders

OW0103164493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ivan Korotchenya, the CIS working group coordinator, has appealed to Parliament Speaker Stanislav Shushkevich and First Vice-Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich to intervene in the settlement of the dispute on governmental communications in the Commonwealth Head Quarters.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: International governmental and regional municipal high-frequency communications were switched off in the working group's headquarters in Minsk at the beginning of February. Korotchenya was apparently approached by two high ranking Belarusian security service officers who informed him that it would be impossible to guarantee confidentiality for telephone conversations held on the governmental lines. This, the officers said, was due to the presence in the headquarters of a number of representatives of international organizations, embassies and commercial bodies. Particular reference was made to the Turkish Embassy which is

said to possess equipment and specialists capable of decoding the governmental communications security system.

Interfax was informed by the Yevgeniy Gorelik, the working group's press spokesman, that a team of experts from the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency under the Russian president had carried out work in the Commonwealth head quarters at the beginning of last week at Korotchenya's request. Gorelik said that the experts had said that in order to provide CIS coordinating bodies with high-frequency communications it would be necessary to move out embassies and representations and complete work to protect and improve communications lines. In addition, he said, the specialists insisted on the whole communications system being switched off for the above work to be carried out.

The spokesman said that the decision to switch off the high-frequency communications only in February had been an illogical one. He said that the UN representation in Belarus had been based in the building for over six months and the Turkish Embassy for almost four. These, he continued, had sufficient time and opportunity to "uncover all of the Commonwealth's secrets communicated by telephone." Gorelik said that the "sluggishness of the Belarusian security service" which had permitted the summit between the CIS heads of state to take place in the CIS headquarters on January 22 "gave grounds for amazement." "Moreover the meetings took place in a room adjacent to Turkish Embassy accommodation," the spokesman stressed.

Gorelik went on to say that Korotchenya had requested the Belarusian leadership on several occasions not to ignore the provisions which already existed for the use of the building, which formerly belonged to the Belarusian Communist Party's Regional Committee. The provisions said that the building should be used only by Commonwealth bodies and that any "sub-tenants" should have been relocated. The coordinator had, however, not yet received a satisfactory reply, the spokesman said.

The absence of a governmental communications system, Gorelik said, would prevent the leaders of the working group and the permanent representatives of CIS states from making urgent links with the highest state and governmental bodies in the CIS and from receiving the necessary consultations for their work on time.

Gorelik said that personal talks with permanent representatives of Commonwealth states within the CIS working group had revealed a degree of discontent among many of them with general conditions in Minsk. A number of these permanent representatives, he said, had lost all faith in the authorities' ability to provide them with the required accommodation. Only one representative from other towns and cities, he continued, had recently received official accommodation and, after almost a year of living in hotels, brought his family to Minsk.

Army To Cut 12,000 Career Servicemen in Two Years

PM0203103593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 1

[Valeriy Kovalev report under "From Our News Bureau" rubric: "Flow of Applications for Transfer to Belarusian Army Dries Up"]

[Text] Minsk—Only last fall the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus was receiving 30-40 requests a day from servicemen for a transfer to the Belarusian Army from the armies of other CIS states. Recently, however, the situation has begun to change.

Although 8,000 officers and ensigns are still awaiting decisions on their fate, the flow of new applications has almost stopped. This is obviously connected, above all, with the fact that the republic's Armed Forces are being cut back. At least 12,000 cadre servicemen will be discharged over the next two years. So there are now virtually no posts for those who would like to return to the motherland.

Bank Chairman Denies Republic To Leave Ruble Zone

LD2702183993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A few days ago a report appeared in the mass media, including television, to the effect that Belarus is leaving the ruble zone. The most likely basis for such statements by journalists was the arrival in Minsk of a regular batch of National Bank banknotes [raschetnyye bilety], which incidentally are printed in Russia. Our correspondent asked the chairman of the Belarus National Bank to comment on this situation.

[Begin recording] [S.A. Bogdankevich, chairman of the National Bank of Belarus] I would like to say that this report is not sensible. I would like to stress that the Supreme Soviet has adopted a law on the National Bank. Article 16 of this law says that republic may leave the ruble zone only by a decision of a Supreme Soviet session. This issue has not been introduced at the session, either by the National Bank or by the government. Therefore this statement itself is baseless. Moreover the facts are these. The government and the National bank have proposed to the Russian Government and Central Bank that a new agreement be concluded on the restoration of a non-cash ruble as a fully valid means of payment on the territory of the two states of Belarus and Russia.

[Unidentified correspondent] So will it be possible to buy foodstuffs in Minsk for Russian rubles?

[Bogdankevich] No, food will for the time being be sold here only for National Bank banknotes. This is connected to the fact that the price of food here is lower than in Russia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. This is a protective measure. [end recording]

Deputies Urge Inquiry Into Purchasing Scandal

MK0103084093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 22

[Aleksandr Starikevich report: "Deputies Demand Urgent Parliamentary Investigation Be Conducted"]

[Text] KOMMERSANT-DAILY continues to carry materials about the scandal in the Belarusian Government. As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has already reported, the scandal is about the expenditure of $3 million allocated to the republic's Health Ministry for purchasing the most essential medicines (for details see KOMMERSANT-DAILY of 18 February). Implicated in the affair was Yelena Kebich, the Belarusian prime minister's wife. KOMMERSANT-DAILY expected to follow up on the subject on 2 March to highlight the stances taken by the republic's Internal Affairs Ministry and the procurator's office. On 26 February, however, a group of Belarusian parliamentarians submitted a request to the Supreme Soviet chairman and members of the parliament's presidium that a parliamentary investigation be immediately launched into the case and that a deputies commission be set up to probe how the entire state hard-currency reserves were being utilized.

By now, the controlling chamber that conducted an investigation into the $3 million case has formulated its definitive opinion: The hard currency was spent unlawfully by the Health Ministry and other organizations implicated in the scandal.

The Council of Ministers and the Health Ministry were asked to bring to justice the officials responsible for breaking the current legislation. The Belarusintorg foreign trade association was instructed to return to the Health Ministry chemical reagents, glasses frames, and other medical-purpose goods. The director and the chief accountant of Belvneshprom [Belarusian Industrial Exports], a Belarusvneshtorg branch, who were directly engaged in the operations, were fined the equivalent of three months' salary.

Eight Belarusian people's deputies, however, dissatisfied with the investigation's results, made a collective deputies' inquiry to the Belarusian parliament's chairman and members of the parliament presidium. It says: "As a result of the investigation it has become clear that dubious transactions were authorized by Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and that his wife, Yelena Kebich, who represented the interests of her commercial firm, was directly involved in them."

The deputies demanded that a parliamentary investigation be immediately launched and an ad hoc deputies' commission be set up at the Supreme Soviet Presidium. According to the deputies, the commission should see how the whole amount of state hard-currency reserves are being utilized and to prepare the subject for consideration at the eleventh special parliamentary session scheduled for 23 March.

Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich himself has been treated at a government vacation hotel outside Minsk for about a month. Officially, the Cabinet of Minister's apparatus has not responded to the deputies' inquiry, although some of its personnel have tried to prevent the Belarusian press from reporting the scandal's details (the government is a founder of most major newspapers). Come what may, only a few small reports have so far been carried by publications that are outside the government's jurisdiction.

Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, is not expected to make an official response to the deputies' inquiry before Monday. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will follow up on the scandal on Tuesday (on 2 March).

Government Approves Creation of Aviation Design Office

WS0103113093 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Belarus can build its own airplanes. Yuriy Kuznetsov, chief designer of the Kvant design office, is positive of it. He introduced the project for the construction of a light multipurpose plane developed by the Kvant to members of the government at a regular session of the Republican Cabinet of Ministers and suggested that a research design office of aviation engineering be created using the facilities of the military enterprises. The chief designer's suggestion was approved by members of the government.

Moldova

Adviser Fears Stalemate in Tiraspol Negotiations

OW0103165093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In comments on the disruption of another round of talks on a settlement in Dniester Region, Presidential Adviser Nicolae Kirtoake warned that the dialogue might get blocked indefinitely. He laid the responsibility for such a development of events on "certain circles in Tiraspol" (the administrative center of Dniester). According to Kirtoake, some Dniester leaders insist that the special status of the area and the main principles of

a settlement should be preliminarily approved by the parliament of the Republic of Dniester, which Chisinau does not officially recognize. Kirtoake is confident that such an approach is unconstructive, since it is fraught with another stalemate in the process of negotiations.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: Commissions from Moldova and Dniester were to hold their routine conference in Bendery on Friday [26 February]. However, delegates from Tiraspol failed to arrive. The disruption of talks coincided with Mircea Snegur's statement concerning the possibility of settling the conflict in Dniester before the end of this year. In an interview for Hungarian television, the president maintained that the initiative in the negotiating process belongs "to the lawful authorities of Moldova."

Large Sections of Dubossary Suburbs Mined

OW0103184193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Large sections of mined territory still exist in the suburbs of Dubossary (on the right bank of the Dniester). The areas were mined during the armed conflict between Transdniestran guards and the Moldovan police in the summer of 1992. Petr Kasapchuk, a Defense Ministry official, announced this to journalists in Chisinau Monday [1 March].

He said they began mining 387 hectares last fall, but work was stopped with the arrival of cold weather. Kasapchuk said the Moldovan Defense Ministry was ready to resume the mining process this spring, but the local authorities in Dubossary, who support Transdniestr's side in the conflict, are against this. Kasapchuk said the city administration is refusing to dismantle the military- engineering installations at battle sites under the pretext of an "imaginary threat of military intervention from Moldova."

Trade Union Communique Signed With Ukraine

LD0103194393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] A joint communique has been signed in Chisinau on cooperation between the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Moldova. They also adopted an appeal to trade union organizations and labor collectives of both countries. The appeal notes that we can overcome crisis situations in all general fields of activity only through helping one another.

'Action Group' Fighting To Lift Communist Party Ban

LD2702223093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1152 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 27 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—An action group has been set up in Moldova to organize a movement which will seek to abolish a parliament presidium resolution banning the republican Communist Party. A statement by the action group published today by the SPRAVEDLIVOST [JUSTICE] newspaper says that in August 1991 the parliamentary presidium, alleging that Communists were involved in the coup, "adopted an anti-constitutional and illegal resolution banning the Communist Party of Moldova, with which the working people had been linking their historic future for many years."

The ban on the Communist Party, the document says, is a disgraceful fact in the history of the independent state.

Ministry Says Foreign Debt at $100 Million

LD2802084493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0750 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau February 28 TASS—According to the Moldovan Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations, the republic's foreign debt is already nearing 100 million dollars, the newspaper VECHERNY Chisinau reported.

Last year the International Monetary Fund granted 19 million dollars to Moldova with an annual interest of 5.5 per cent. The republic borrowed 28 million ECU (about 42 million dollars) from the European Community at ten per cent interest per annum, to be repaid within three years.

The United States granted a credit of 10 million dollars at three per cent interest, to be repaid over a period of 32 years. The American credit is intended for the purchase of grain.

Another 25 million dollars are expected to come to Moldova from the World Bank in March this year. Turkey also manifests readiness to help Moldova, it is prepared to grant an easy-term credit of 35 million dollars.

Security Service Seizes Contraband Passports

OW2602183393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1415 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan security forces have detained Dragan Opra, a Romanian citizen, at the customs post of Ungena. The Romanian had attempted to smuggle 36 passports belonging to citizens of Sri Lanka and Singapore over the border. The passports contained open false visas giving them the right to remain in a number of European states until 1998. The Romanian admitted at questioning that he was working with a group of foreigners illegally residing in Bucharest. This group was assisting citizens from Asia to travel illegally through the CIS and Romania on their way to Western Europe. Opra also said that the criminals had an arrangement with the Romanian security services and customs officials who were assisting the passage of the Asians to the West in train wagons earmarked for goods.

Kazakhstan

Russian Security Minister Visits, Signs Agreements

MK0103080293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 20

[Vladimir Urban article: "Russia, Kazakhstan Strengthen Border With Customs Houses"]

[Text] On 25 February in Alma-Ata, Viktor Barannikov, Russian security minister, and Bulat Bayekenov, chairman of Kazakhstan's National Security Committee, signed an agreement on cooperation and interaction on border regulation matters. Experts note that this is the second agreement between the republics' security services (the first one was signed 25 March 1992). On 25 February, Barannikov and Bayekenov held a press conference after their talks. They announced that border controls between Russia and Kazakhstan would be confined to just internal customs control.

Barannikov and Bayekenov told the press conference that they had also signed several other documents, including a protocol on counterintelligence logistics support for combat units and detachments. According to the speakers, the agreements on border regime questions were not caused by any particular problems on the border with China that could arouse the sides' concern. Kazakhstan's border troops, now in the process of formation, need assistance and support, which the Russian side has promised to render. Meanwhile, following the agreements signed earlier, cooperation continues to be strengthened.

It was also stressed at the press conference that at present there were neither no-go areas [kontrolno-sledovaya polosa] nor border patrols on the border between Kazakhstan and Russia. Bulat Bayekenov said there would be none in the future either. The free movement of people and cargo gives grounds to talk about the transparency of the Russian-Kazakh border. Nonetheless, Viktor Barannikov said the agreement signed in Alma-Ata provides for beefing up the border between Russia and Kazakhstan. This will be done by means of establishing internal customs controls: Checkpoints will soon appear on the border between the two countries. This need for this has grown following the intensified activity of organized criminal groups that are already closely collaborating, primarily in the sphere of economic crime.

Viktor Barannikov pointed out that Iran and Pakistan had also suggested to Kazakhstan that visa-free travel be established on their borders, but so far the republic would do this only with Russia. According to Barannikov, however, Russia should not be an obstacle in Kazakhstan's developing relations with other neighboring countries. According to the Russian minister, many foreign secret services are still showing an interest in the strategic installations located in Kazakhstan and Russia. Therefore the two countries' security services intend to pool their efforts in safeguarding each other's interests and protecting strategic military facilities. "We are open," Barannikov said, "but this does not at all mean that somebody is allowed to break our laws. One should act with due respect for them, and then there will be no problems." Bulat Bayekenov added: "In line with the documents signed, the sides have assumed obligations whereby their military counterintelligence services will not work against each other."

The sides are still concerned over the unstable situation on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In this connection General Vladimir Shlyakhtin, commander of the Russian border troops, who accompanied the Russian security minister on his tour, said that to reinforce borders with Afghanistan four battalions of 500 men each would be sent to Tajikistan. Viktor Barannikov added that the Russian delegation would fly on the morning of 26 February to Tajikistan to study the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. The results of that inspection will be reported to the Russian president after the delegation has returned to Moscow. "We must not allow another Afghanistan to happen," the Russian minister stressed.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report further details of Viktor Barannikov's trip on 2 March, after the minister's meeting with leaders of the Tajik republic.

A. Isengulov Appointed Deputy Defense Minister

PM0103163593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Ladin report under the rubric "From Our Information Bureau": "The Tried and Trusted Suitable in Education Work in the Kazakhstani Army"]

[Text] Alma-Ata—By directive of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Colonel Aytkali Isengulov has been appointed republic deputy defense minister and chief of the Directorate for Education and Sociolegal Work.

In an interview with KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's correspondent, Isengulov stressed that in education work with personnel many forms that have been well commended in the past will be used, forms which foster the formation in servicemen of love for the Motherland and loyalty to their military duty and oaths of allegiance.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Advocates Presidential-Parliamentarian Republic

OW0103164693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Askar Akayev believes that "all today's troubles are rooted in the socialist past" and the communist party leaders must bear political, albeit not legal, responsibility for it. Speaking at a congress of the country's democratic forces last Saturday [27 February] he also made it clear that the leaders of newly independent states, including himself, are also to blame for the situation in the former Union. The president also noted that "the dreams of putting the economy right easily and swiftly are unrealistic."

The president called on his audience to make up their mind what political system they want to have in Kyrgyzstan. He admitted that he could not make a clear-cut definition of the system but its most important features must be priority of personal rights and freedoms, democracy in the economy, politics, and the social sphere of life. Akayev thinks that economic democracy can work in a climate of competition and with state control, freedom of entrepreneurship and public supervision of the government. Akayev also thinks that a strong democratic state aided by trade unions should supervise the market. Akayev's political ideal is prevalence of a cooperative movement combined with democratic local governments.

The form of the state is a matter of urgency for Kyrgyzstan, the president thinks. He believes that the purely American form of presidential republic is unacceptable for Kyrgyzstan where it can result in noticeable advantages of the executive branch over parliament. He also thinks that a parliamentary republic as it functions in numerous countries of the West and East is also unacceptable, for as long as there is no two-party system in place parliament cannot consolidate democracy, because the legislative and executive powers cannot be balanced.

A presidential-and-parliamentary republic would be the optimal arrangement for Kyrgyzstan, Akayev thinks. This model is reflected in the constitutional draft.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: By the draft the president will be elected by a popular vote and become the head of state but not of the government. Parliament will be a law making body which will also supervise observance of the law.

With this system, Akayev thinks, the president and parliament will supervise each other. He thinks that existence of various regional interests "which are historically legitimate and cannot be neglected" must be recognized in Kyrgyzstan.

Speaking of the national revival of Kyrgyzes the president noted that, like in other regions of the former USSR, ethnic renaissance is taking place. He thinks that a broad and comprehensive program of the national renaissance of the Kyrgyz people, culture, and language has to be worked out. He hopes for a vigorous and coordinated support from political parties and movements in this field. He also advocates preservation of the cultures and languages of all other people living in Kyrgyzstan. Growing national consciousness, the president believes, must not obstruct development of a unity of Kyrgyzstan's peoples. "The Republic's citizen may have different national consciousnesses but this must not be above their legal status," he emphasized.

Preservation of a civil accord and confidence of the people are a vital factor in the country's climbing out of a sharp economic crisis, the president believes. He expressed his readiness to cooperate with political parties and movements in achieving that goal.

The congress failed to agree on the need for all political forces in the country to join forces to preserve social and ethnic harmony in Kyrgyzstan or on the resignation of Prime-Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev. Representatives of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan and Asaba parties presented an ultimatum demanding his resignation. The leaders of the remaining 10 parties and movements disagreed, saying that it was up to the president to make a decision on firing the prime-minister. On the first day of the congress they had declared support of the president and his reforms. Following a long discussion they left the congress hall.

Local observers welcome this split as clear evidence that there are forces in the country capable of countering the political extremism of some leaders who want to seize power at all costs.

Governments Cooperate To Prevent Flow of Tajik Arms, Drugs

OW0103145993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report on "exclusive interview" with Vice President Feliks Kulov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The law-enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan are doing everything possible to prevent the penetration into the republic of fighters from the Tajik opposition and the accompanying weapons and drugs. The statement was made in an exclusive Interfax interview with Kyrgyz Vice-President Feliks Kulov. At the end of last week, he went to the Kyrgyz region of Alais, which borders Tajikistan, to familiarize himself with the situation.

Kulov noted that the anxiety of the Kyrgyz leadership is linked with the fact that Tajik opposition forces are currently being driven back by government forces in the border regions. At the same time, he emphasized that the situation on the border with Tajikistan was still stable and entirely under control.

The vice-president also reported that law-enforcement agencies in Kyrgyzstan were working closely with the heads of analogous organs in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to prevent penetration by the Tajik opposition.

Prime Minister Pledges Devotion to Democratic Approach

OW2502182293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan is ready to implement sweeping economic reforms and use the European approach to democratic development as a model, eschewing authoritarianism. Kyrgyz Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev announced this at a press conference held in Bishkek Thursday [25 February] upon the completion of a 10 day working tour of several European countries.

Chyngyshev claimed his meetings with the European Parliament, the European Community Commission, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development displayed Europe's high interest in Kyrgyzstan due to the republic's readiness to fulfill a program of economic reforms supported by the IMF and the World Bank.

The prime minister said that Kyrgyzstan would participate in the European Parliament as an observer, and that the European Community Commission would regulate issues concerning the receipt of credits for implementing economic reforms and supporting small and mid-sized enterprises in the republic.

Congress Meets To Promote Democratic Reforms

LD2802020793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1325 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] For the irreversibility of democratic reform—such is the name of a congress that opened in Bishkek today. Aleksandr Mestov, our correspondent in Kyrgyzstan, will tell us now about its work.

[Mestov] Many parties and social and political organizations in Kyrgyzstan came forward as initiators of this representative forum. There are three main issues on the agenda: the mechanism of adopting a new constitution of the republic; discussing ways out of the economic crisis, and setting up a permanently operating congress for the irreversibility of democratic reforms.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev, Supreme Soviet Chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov, and Prime Minister Tursunbek Chingyshev took part in its work.

In his speech today, President Akayev particularly stressed that the unity of all truly democratic forces in Kyrgyzstan was necessary to overcome the economic crisis. Provided that we manage to maintain political stability and inter-ethnic accord, Askar Akayev said, all economic problems can be resolved. But you know, it is exactly unity and cohesion that our democrats have been lacking so far. Still, when discussing the mechanism for adopting a new constitution today, there was practically unanimous agreement that the whole people, and not only the parliament, should vote for it at a congress [kurultay].

Admittedly, none of those who spoke today raised the question of why the Russian language, as a language of inter-ethnic communication, was omitted from the draft basic law, considering that a Russian population of 1.5 million is living in Kyrgyzstan. It is not for me to judge whether it happened by accident or not, but the fact remains that some of our parties, which regard themselves as democratic, openly give priority to rights of nations over human rights. Could it be accidental that an overwhelming majority of the parties and movements in the republic have mono-ethnic membership? And you know, one cannot but recall the wise words of the well-known writer and philosopher Albert Camus who said that democracy is not the power of the majority, but rather the protection of the minority.

Incidentally, at today's congress both the government and heads of oblast and rayon administrations, (akims) as they are called here in Kyrgyzstan, were also in hot water. In the opinion of the participants in the congress, the government should resign as a body for being unable to implement economic reforms, and akims were accused of usurping power and called the main hindrance in implementing, first and foremost, the land reform in rural areas. I do not think that the president heard anything new in this respect there today. Nor was there any novelty in the idea voiced in many other speeches that the time had come to tighten discipline and order at all stages of production.

I think it is too early to sum up the results of the congress. It will finish its work tomorrow. There will be a morning session. But today's leitmotif was as follows: consolidation of all democratic forces and the fastest possible progress of economic reforms are a must. The aspiration is good, no doubt, and as they say, God grant it does not remain just a declaration. This is what I wanted to tell Mayak radio listeners today.

Split Occurs at Congress

LD2802170993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 28 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Bishkek February 28 TASS—A split occured at a Congress of the Democratic Forces of Kyrgyzstan on Sunday [28 February]. The question of confidence in the government headed by Premier T. Chingyshev, included in a declaration, became a stumbling-block. Some delegates demanded an immediate resignation of the cabinet while others considered that that should be decided by the president of the republic.

After an hour-long heated argument, part of deputies walked out of the auditorium. The remaining representatives of the Democratic Party, the Asaba, and another five public movements and associations announced the

establishment of a standing congress "for the irreversibility of democratic reforms".

The congress will strive for civil peace and political stability, following the road of compromises, organisers said.

Further on Split

OW2802180793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1730 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Discussion of the final resolutions by the Congress of Democratic Forces in Bishkek on Sunday [28 February] degenerated into a split within the country's pro-democracy movement. Leader of the Erkin Kyrgyzstan Party Topchubek Turgunaliyev had called for the resignation of the government led by Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev. However, the Asaba National Rennaisance Party was the only one to support the motion. After a lengthy debate, leaders of the remaining 10 parties and movements opposing it staged a walkout refraining from further discussion.

Leader of the Kyrgyzstan Democratic Movement Melis Aidarkulov in an interview with Interfax said the move was caused by the fact that the forum was in no position to raise an ultimatum for government resignation. He said that Democratic leaders had expressed support both to the president and his government only the day before. Aidarkulov said the dissidents would now make known through the press what they thought about the internal situation and a new constitution.

President Akayev Dismisses Agriculture Minister

OW0103195993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Kyrgyzstan Askar Akayev dismissed Agriculture Minister Karypbek Asanov for serious drawbacks in his work. He was replaced as acting minister by his former deputy Bekbolot Talgarbekov.

At a meeting with directors of the agro-industrial complex last Friday [26 February] Akayev sharply criticized the Ministry of Agriculture. In his opinion, due "to the lack of normal management" the crisis situation has been created in the agriculture.

Akayev said that the republic lacks a program of agricultural reform, the economic program of the government for 1992 failed, the spring field works this year are under threat of disruption. Besides, the president accused the ministry of the sabotage of the land reform.

Tajikistan

Conference Discusses Disarming Rebels

OW0103183193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1702 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Imamali Rakhmonov, head of the Tajik parliament, met with Akbarsho Iskandarov, chairman of the Council of People's Deputies of Gorno-Bagdashan autonomous region, in Dushanbe on Monday [1 March] to address possibilities for disarming the militants in the Tajik armed opposition in the Pamir region without resorting to the use of government troops. The other issue on their agenda discussed behind closed doors has to do with the relations between Dushanbe and the administration of Gorno-Bagdashan Autonomous Region.

Mr Iskandarov had been holding the post of head of the Tajik parliament before November, 1992, when Mr Rakhmonov was elected to this office.

In an interview for Interfax, head of Tajik communist party, Shodi Shabdolov, who is member of the government commission on the Pamir, revealed that the Gorno-Bagdashan autonomous region has given shelter to "several thousand" armed opposition members.

He is hopeful that during the talks, the parties would not resort to "power method for settling the hidden confrontation between the Gorno-Bagdashan Autonomous Region and the Tajik government." In the words of Mr Shabdolov, bringing government forces to the Pamir would immediately spur mojahedin armed formations from Northern Afghanistan to get involved in the civil war in Tajikistan, as a result of which the conflict would enter a new phase.

Mr Shabdolov reasons that in order to successfully disarm the opposition militants in Gorno-Bagdashan autonomous region "who were not actively involved in any combat operations," it would be necessary to set up an armed formation placing it under direct control of the Tajik defense minister.

In the meantime, the situation at the Tajik-Afghan border becomes "very tense", Saydamir Zukhurov, head of the Tajik national security committee, told Interfax. In his words, there is a growing number of border violations by aircraft and vehicles.

Pro-Government Forces Seize Stronghold Near Dushanbe

OW0203121393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Tajikistan pro-government forces have captured another opposition stronghold—the town of Tajikabad to the east of Dushanbe. According to deputy Prime-Minister Mukhammad Said Ubaidullayev, pro-government forces have refrained from continuing the offensive in the direction of Jirgatal. He said the head of the local administration convinced the government that it is possible to confiscate illegal weapons in the area without calling in special army units: the population consists mostly of ethnic Kyrgyz and other minorities who will not support opposition militants.

Ubaidullayev said that a government commission should soon go to Jirgatal to explain the policies of the new authorities to the public.

The deputy prime-minister said nothing about the whereabouts of opposition leaders. Still he said law enforcement bodies are working to isolate persons against whom charges have been brought. The former Muslim leader Akbar Turajonzoda, vice-premier and deputy chairman of the Islamic Party Davlat Usmon, the chairman of the Democratic Party Shodmon Yusuf and several other political and public figures are charged with attempting to change the constitutional order by force, fanning ethnic discord and civil war.

Ubaidullayev said that Tajik law enforcement bodies have been promised support by their counterparts in other CIS countries to this end.

'Bloody Jumble' Predicted Unless War Ends Soon

PM0203095993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 2

[Article by Sergey Demidov, International Desk deputy editor, under the "Forecasts" rubric: "All Is Confusion in Tajik Home Built in Former USSR"]

[Text] Several months of civil war—the most dreadful and bloody conflict in post-Soviet Central Asia—have shaken Tajikistan to its foundations. According to certain data, up to 40,000 people have already died in fighting among the various forces engaged in hand-to-hand fighting. But there is, as yet, no end in sight to the fierce fighting for the right to govern the Tajik home.

At first, last September, the Islamicists, who by an improbable concurrence of circumstances ("The East is a delicate matter"?!) had united in an unprecedented alliance with liberals and democrats, beat the "reds" and finished off former President Rakhman Nabiyev. But fortune, as is known, is a very fickle lady. She is particularly inconstant in her feelings for those who clamber up the Everest of power by any means available. In ascending it, they are ready to sacrifice even their own people to the military Moloch with a rock-steady hand just in order to stay on the summit. In December detachments of the present Tajik government, which is considered procommunist, drove the "green" fundamentalists out of Dushanbe. Even now they are continuing to crowd them into the spurs of the "roof of the world"—the Pamirs. The latest act of the Tajik tragedy, in which criminals who have been set free are playing not the least sinister role, as at the time of the Communists' "triumphal march" through Russia in 1917-1920, is currently being played out in the Ramit Gorge. But there are no guarantees that it will be the last act and that the epilogue to this cruel drama will not be "staged" in the Tajik valleys. Particularly as certain fundamentalist circles abroad have long been yearning to finish writing it.

In Afghanistan, in particular, Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, who just cannot abide the government of interim President Borhanoddin Rabbani—his comrade in arms of yesterday in the jihad ("holy war") against the Soviet occupation and the former pro-Kremlin regimes in Kabul, who, incidentally, is a Tajik by nationality—is already openly threatening Dushanbe as well. He is sending his gunmen to the northern bank of the Panj border river to assist the "brothers in the faith." According to information being received, approximately 600 Afghan mojahedin are fighting on the side of the Tajik "greens." G. Hekmatyar, the intransigent "tiger of Lowgar," would evidently like to blow up the power in Kabul not only with his rockets but also with the help of the Tajik bomb. If the Muslim opposition returns "in triumph" to the Tajik capital, he will, in my opinion, be able to demand payment from them for his support in the form of bayonets on their side. In order to increase his influence over them, is it not his people who are forcibly holding thousands of Tajik refugees as hostages on the territory of Afghanistan's Konduz Province?

Only not just the leader of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan but also Tehran and Ankara are trying to play Tajik solitaire. Although the Tajiks are Sunni like the Afghans, and not Shiites like the Iranians, this people is Persian-speaking. But even pro-Western Turkey has no intention of yielding the first place in Tajikistan to Iran.

Unless the war in this republic can be ended within the next few months—and this can probably only be done through the joint efforts of the CIS countries, whose leaders are not yet rushing off to Tajikistan with fire hoses, although, for example, the decision to reinforce the Tajik-Afghan border was made in Minsk as long ago as 22 January—all will be utter confusion in the Tajik home. And if you consider that Tajik nationalists are demanding the return to them of the "historical Tajik cities" which ended up in Uzbekistan following Stalin's dismemberment of Turkestan in 1925, then there will be nothing left in the place of this country but a bloody jumble, and parts of the neighboring Central Asian republics will be drawn into the general butchery following the example of those who have repeatedly organized eastern despotisms in the past.

CIS Troops Expected for Border Duty; Date Unclear

PM0103171193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Pelts report: "No Battalions Yet. Many News Agencies Were Clearly Hasty With Report About Introduction of Peacekeeping Forces Into Tajikistan"]

[Text] Information that Commonwealth peacekeeping battalions (one reinforced battalion each from Russia and Kazakhstan and two from Uzbekistan) that are to protect the Tajik-Afghan border will enter Tajikistan in the next few days was transmitted by many news agencies.

Frankly speaking, it caused some surprise, although the decision to send CIS battalions into Tajikistan was indeed adopted at the Commonwealth heads of state meeting in Minsk. But in Kazakhstan, for example, there is a powerful parliamentary faction which categorically objects to the introduction of Kazakh servicemen into Tajikistan, which has been engulfed by the fire of civil war. Here the parliamentarians cite existing law banning the use of national troops outside Kazakhstan and their participation in the resolution of ethnic conflicts.

In order to clarify the situation we contacted the Tajik Defense Ministry. Staff there confirmed that they are expecting the peacekeeping forces' arrival but they had difficulty in naming a specific date yet. Furthermore, it was stressed that the first subunits of the Tajik Armed Forces being created are waging successful combat operations against fundamentalist formations. The Tajik border guard brigade protecting the republic's southern border has also stepped up its activities. It is closely collaborating with the Russian border guards who are continuing to guard the Tajik-Afghan border.

Of course, this in no way means that the republic Armed Forces being created can already solve autonomously all the problems generated by the civil war of many months' duration. Tajikistan needs assistance, including assistance from those CIS battalions which must also take up positions on the republic's southern border. However, it is as yet impossible to say specifically when they will enter Tajikistan. Representatives of the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command [Glavkomat] could not name a specific date either.

Refugees Return From Afghanistan; POWs To Be Released

LD0103165593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By correspondent A. Prokhorova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] More than 5,000 refugees have already returned to Tajikistan from the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Sangak Safarov, leader of the People's Front of Tajikistan, asserts that there are still at least 15,000 of his compatriots who are ready to return to their motherland right away. Safarov said that during recent negotiations with representatives of the Afghan General Dostam he met with complete understanding on this sore problem, and in the near future additional check-points will be opened on the Tajik-Afghan border. The leader of Tajikistan's People's Front stressed that the crossings will be made under the supervision of his fighters and the border authorities, so as to prevent any armed irregulars from entering Tajikistan.

At the same time, the Kabul authorities intend to free a number of former Soviet POWs who were captured by the mojahedin when the limited contingent of Soviet troops was in Afghanistan. There was no mention of the number of prisoners who may be released from Afghanistan in the next few days.

Safarov Cited on Refugees

LD0103094193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe March 1 TASS—Over 5,000 refugees have already returned to Tajikistan from Afghanistan, official reports say. Sangak Safarov, leader of the Tajik People's Front, says that at least 15,000 Tajiks who fled their native country during the fratricidal war, want to return to Tajikistan immediately.

In an interview with "BUSINESS AND POLITICS" weekly, Safarov stressed that during his recent talks with representatives of General Dostam he "met complete understanding of this painful problem" and that more border check points would be opened on the Tajik-Afghan border in the near future.

Safarov stressed that refugees would be transferred under the control of his forces and border commanders so as not to allow armed militants to cross into Tajikistan.

"However, those who are coming over to us with peace and no guns have nothing to be afraid, they would be welcomed by the Tajik people as brothers, since it is no secret that the majority of refugees have fled to Afghanistan under pressure and a threat of physical reprisals," Safarov said.

Civil War Damage Estimated at 300 Billion Rubles

LD0203063093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0626 GMT 2 Mar 93

[By the Tajik News Agency for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe March 2—Damages to the national economy of Tajikistan caused by the civil war there reached 300 billion roubles, according to the head of government Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov. He said a survey of areas damaged in the fratricidal armed conflict revealed that the Khatlon region was the hardest hit. The government was channelling main material and financial resources to the region to help restore normal life.

The law enforcement agencies are normalizing the situation in cities and kishlaks (villages). The minister of internal affairs of Tajikistan, Yakubdzhon Salimov said

in an interview published by the NARODNAYA GAZETA (PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER) today that Islamic militants had committed a series of new crimes. According to the minister, 12 communal graves have been unearthed in Dushanbe, ten installations have been cleared of landmines, including the butter and fat factory, the thermal power electric station, and even the council of ministers and the country's parliament.

Government Frees Prices on Oil Products

OW2702141493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's government has freed prices for oil products. The new market prices will be based on the purchase prices and will include the cost of transportation and production at the factories of the state joint-stock holding company Naftrason plus 30 percent of the production costs.

The reason for the government's decision was the liberalization of prices for fuel Tajikistan buys from other republics and the increasing cost of its delivery and storage.

Turkmenistan

Ukrainian Prime Minister on Official Visit

Protocol Signed on Trade

OW2502181093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkmenistan and Ukraine have decided to pay each other for their mutual sales of goods through clearing accounts in U.S. dollars at prices equivalent to 60 percent of the world ones. This is recorded in a protocol signed in Ashgabat on Thursday [25 February], following talks between the Turkmen government and a Ukrainian delegation headed by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

The document stipulates, in particular, that the difference between the cost of the Turkmen natural gas sold to Ukraine and that of the Ukrainian goods sold to Turkmenistan is to be made good before the 10th of every month. The payments can be made either in freely convertible currency or Russian rubles at the Russian Central Bank's exchange rate or by a reduction in the amount of commodities sold the following month. Besides, Ukraine is to give Turkmenistan an export license and the right to re-export its goods. The protocol will come into force before March 10, after the mechanism is ready for "the evaluation of commodities, mutual payments, the accounting of the movement of commodities, and transport expenditures."

Commenting on the document, Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Otchertsov told Interfax that, whereas Turkmenistan will be selling Ukraine about 1.4 Bn [billion] dollars' worth of natural gas a year, Ukraine is currently offering Turkmenistan goods to a sum of only $680 Mn [million]. To make up for the difference, Ukraine has promised to increase the range and amount of goods it will be selling, he said.

The Turkmen government and the Ukrainian delegation signed several other agreements as well, including ones on cooperation in motor and air transport, on customs regulations, and on postal money orders. Within a month, an agreement will be drafted on long-term supplies of natural gas.

Another Turkmen deputy premier, Nazar Suyunov, commenting on the talks in an exclusive interview with Interfax, said the Turkmen and Ukrainian officials had also discussed Ukraine's participation in the development of Turkmenistan's oil and gas industry. "Since Turkmenistan holds international competitions for the right to cooperate with us in this field, we decided that Ukraine will in future be taking part in them on the same terms as everyone else. Apart from that, considering Ukraine's experience in designing installations for the oil and gas industry, it will also be taking part in the working of deposits if necessary," Suyunov said.

Comments on Visit

LD2602172693 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1931 GMT 25 Feb 93

[By special UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigorev]

[Excerpts] Ashgabat, 25 Feb—Ukraine must receive 20-25 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas in the current year. This agreement—which ascertains and makes more precise the accords previously reached—has been signed in Ashgabat, where Ukrainian-Turkmen intergovernmental talks ended today. A mechanism for mutual accounts has also been worked out. [passage omitted]

Leonid Kuchma said: We are pleased with the results of the visit to Turkmenistan, and to the other countries of the Central Asian region—Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The main conclusion of the trip was that we should live through together through the economic situation that has arisen and not separately. The presidents and heads of governments of the countries where we have been believe this. And the main thing is that the people believe this. Meetings at the enterprises that we visited confirmed this.

Documents were signed during the course of the trip that strengthen the foundation of mutually advantageous long-term cooperation.

In Kuchma's opinion, friction in the mutual relations of Ukraine with the Central Asian countries arose when talk turned to energy-carriers—not because of oil or gas, but because someone wants to make them fight among themselves. This matter is absolutely without prospects, he emphasized.

The head of the Ukrainian Government went on to say that it is necessary to move forward from this critical situation—which is observed in all of the countries of the former USSR. It is time for all to think again. We have reached a line that must not be crossed.

Touching on reports about Russia's intention to stop the supply of natural gas to Ukraine, Kuchma said that the government of the Russian Federation had not adopted such a decision. Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Russian counterpart, confirmed this in a telephone conversation with the Ukrainian prime minister. A meeting between them will take place in Moscow in the near future.

The government delegation of Ukraine returned home on the same day.

Georgian Prime Minister, Delegation in Ashgabat

OW2702123293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1005 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Members of the Turkmen government on Saturday [27 February] started negotiations with a Georgian government delegation headed by Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, which arrived in Ashgabat on Friday. The meeting is being held behind closed doors.

Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov told Interfax the talks are centering around mutual payments.

He declined to name the difference in the total cost of Turmenistan's supplies to Georgia and that of Georgia's supplies to Turkmenistan, saying the calculations have not yet been finished.

Last year, Turkmenistan supplied Georgia with 4.8 Bn [billion] cubic meters of natural gas, and is planning to provide it with 3.6 Bn cubic meters this year. According to some sources, Georgia is, however, unable to provide Turkmenistan with an amount of commodities making up for more than 2.5 Bn cubic meters of gas.

Suyunov said Turkmenistan suggests making mutual payments partly on a clearing basis, partly in rubles or hard currency.

Another deputy premier, Redzhep Saparov, told Interfax a trade and economic agreement for 1993 is to be signed following the talks.

Accord on Trade, Cooperation Signed

LD2702210993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 27 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat February 27 TASS—Intergovernmental Turkmen-Georgian negotiations ended here today with the signing of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation for 1993. The Georgian delegation was headed by republican Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua.

An agreement provides for the Turkmen delivery of 3.6 billion cubic meters of gas to Georgia on the basis of clearing payments. The Georgian side took an obligation to supply goods to Turkmenistan. The sides also signed an agreement on principles of interaction in transport.

Today's negotiations have reaffirmed the benefits of bilateral cooperation—a principle Turkmenistan consistently carries out in its foreign policy, said Turkmen Vice-Premier Nasar Suyunov, commenting on the meeting results.

Niyazov Supports CIS, Opposes Coordinating Center

LD0103132093 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan has announced his republic favors the enforcement of the Commonwealth of Independent States but opposes the creation of a supranational coordinating center that could dictate to the CIS republics.

In an interview for the Moscow press Mr. Niyazov invited the CIS leaders to hold a regular meeting in Turkmenistan in September. Touching on his republic's future he pointed out that it was moving along its own road to a secular democratic state. The socially oriented market economy is being built. Despite the difficulties of the transitional period, water, gas, and electricity in Turkmenistan are free of charge.

Uzbekistan

President Outlines Principles of State's Development

PM2502162193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Feb 93 p 1

[Own Information report: "Karimov's Five Principles of Islam"]

[Text] Addressing an expanded session of the cabinet of ministers, Uzbek President Karimov expounded the underlying principles of the state that is being built.

First, the president said, the economy should have priority over politics.

Second, in running the economy, particularly during the transition to market relations, when the new society is being built, the state should not relinquish the reins of government, that is to say, it should be the chief reformer.

Third, observance of the law is a sine qua non for the building of a rule-of-law state. The law should be paramount. It is essential to seek to ensure that the law hold sway in all spheres of life.

Fourth, a strong social policy must be pursued. Wages have been increased in the republic—the minimum wage is now 2,500 rubles. That is more than in Russia.

Fifth, the transition to a market economy should be carried out in stages, without haste. There is no point here in burning down your home, particularly when no new one has yet been built.

The president opposed any division into "party apparatchiks" and "democrats." We have a common past; none of us has dropped out of the sky.

Azerbaijani Delegation Arrives in Tashkent

NC2702141093 Baku TURAN in English 1158 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Baku 27 Feb (TURAN)—The governmental delegation of Azerbaijan with deputy of the prime-minister of the republic Ali Masimov after visit of Alma-Ata and Bishkek, arrived in Tashkent.

The bilateral agreement according the trade-economical co-operation for the year of 1993 and a number of other documents were signed in the result of intergovernmental negotiations.

The head of the Azerbaijani delegation signed two days ago in Bishkek the package of intergovernmental agreements on principles of the trade-economical agreements, creation of the joint Kyrgyz-Azerbaijani ventures and joint-stock companies.

The following place of visit of the Azeri delegation will be the capital of Turkmenistan the city of Ashgabat.

President Karimov Appoints New Justice Minister

LD2702145093 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1144 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] By a decree of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, Alisher Mardiyev has been appointed the republic's justice minister. [passage omitted]

Armenia

President Accuses Opposition of Destabilizing Situation

NC0103134393 Yerevan SNARK in English 0657 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Yerevan, February 27 (SNARK)—"Let the opposition do not hope that we leave the political scene," President Ter-Petrosyan declared today. Speaking out a the expanded session of the police bodies, the president accused the opposition of the political demagogy, and announced that the opposition is eager to convince the people with the impermanent existence of the present authorities, what, in his opinion, is destabilizing the situation and creates most-favored grounds for the crime boom and permissiveness in the republic.

Criticizes Attacks on Law Enforcement

OW0103162993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 01 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] President Levon Ter-Petrosyan thinks the extreme opposition's increasingly frequent attacks on the leadership should not make officers in the law-enforcement services lose confidence or feel uncertain about the future.

"We have been hearing since the summer of 1990 that our days are numbered. But those are vain hopes. Ministers and other senior officials have been replaced in many republics but we are still here, and we will prove our ability to establish law and order" the President said, addressing a meeting of officers from law-enforcement bodies.

Ter-Petrosyan said he did not expect the people's living standards to go up too soon. However, he said, he still believed in "the best qualities of the Armenian people," their common sense, ability to unite, and nonacceptance of any kind of political adventuring. [passage omitted]

The President said tightening control of Armenia's airports within a week should be one of the main tasks for the law-enforcement bodies, air transport being the republic's "only secure form of communication with the rest of the world."

Parliamentary Opposition To Boycott Votes Pending Reform

OW0103201093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary opposition in Armenia intends to boycott any vote in parliament until the parliamentary reform starts and some of the powers earlier transferred to the president are returned to the Supreme Council. This was declared at a press conference in Yerevan Monday [1 March] by leaders of the opposition parliamentary factions of the Armenian Supreme Council. In their opinion, today could become a "turning point" in the work of the parliament, because "for the first time a watershed between the government and the opposition revealed clearly."

Supreme Soviet Head on Meeting With Azeri Counterpart

OW0103195793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1910 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The recent meeting in Istanbul between the leaders of the Armenian and Azeri parliaments had "an informative and confidential character," Chairman of the Armenian Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan told IF [INTERFAX] on Monday [1 March]. Both delegations participated in the constituent session of the Assembly for Cooperation of the countries of the Black Sea region.

The face-a-tete meeting with Isa Kamberov which according to Ararktsyan took place on February 26 lasted about an hour and a half. The two men discussed the situation in the two republics. Ararktsyan did not rule out that the meeting "would mark the beginning of further contacts between the speakers of the two neighboring republics."

The head of the Armenian parliament confirmed a statement of the Azeri TV that Armenia is prepared to provide its territory for delivering humanitarian aid to Azerbaijan.

President's Representative on CSCE-Sponsored Talks

NC0103173593 Yerevan SNARK in English 1419 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Yerevan, 1 Mar (SNARK)—The two days of the negotiations within the CSCE auspices on the Karabakh issue have not gained further results, Davit Shakhnazaryan, the representative of the Armenian president, informed SNARK's reporter.

In his opinion, Azerbaijan is demonstrating a nonconstructive approach, suggesting the unacceptable preliminary terms, such as the nonregular military troops withdrawal from the territory in Karabakh. Armenia does not connect great hopes with these negotiations while the current Azerbaijani Government is in effect, Shakhnazaryan said. "They are not ready to peace talks [as received] because they came to their rein through the wave of military hysteria, and the war is the sole point

which hold them at the country's rule," the Armenian presidential representative considers.

Radio, Television Directorate Head Relieved of Post

NC0103201593 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] According to a presidential decree, Samuel Volodyayi Gevorgyan has been relieved of his post as head of the Armenian Republic's State Directorate for Television and Radio at his own request.

Plans To Revive Machine, Tractor Stations Viewed

PM0203101593 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 93 p 2

[Correspondent Armen Khanbabyan report under the "End-of-Winter News" rubric: "Armenia Has Come To Love the Machine and Tractor Station"]

[Text] Yerevan—The first stage of land privatization has brought appreciable benefits to Armenia. Whereas industrial output in the republic almost halved last year, agricultural output even went up somewhat. However, time has shown that the countryside does have its own difficulties and problems. The main one is preparation for the next sowing campaign.

Ministry of Agriculture specialists consider that the next harvest is threatened by the lack of fuel and spare parts caused by the continuing blockade of the republic. Meanwhile Armenia intends to expand appreciably the area sown to grain crops, which should make it possible to blunt the edge of the grain crisis somewhat. But individual peasant farmers are scarcely in a position to cope with this task. Far from all of them have put aside stocks of equipment and fuel since the fall. Moreover, the owners of scarce tractors scarcely manage to work their own plots of land by the spring, and if they do also agree to help fellow-villagers, it is only for an astronomical payment.

Given these conditions, the republic government is examining the possibility of reviving in the countryside machine and tractor stations, which seemed to have receded into history. They intend to muster all remaining nonprivatized equipment into mobile detachments prior to the spring, which will work the plots of the majority of individual peasant farmers. The state will supply them with all necessities, and the peasants will pay for the services rendered at the end of the year with the produce of the new harvest.

Azerbaijan

President's Press Service on 'Pro-Imperial' Forces

OW0203121193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1148 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some diversions at energy transport communications in the Caucasus indicate that there are "definite pro-imperial forces" that want larger trouble spots in the region in order to retain a military presence there," according to a statement by the Azerbaijani president's press-service released on Tuesday [2 March].

In this connection, the press-service reports that recently two trains following Baku-Moscow and Kharkov-Moscow routes were attacked by terrorists. It was disclosed that the blast in train 192 on the Moscow-Baku route was made by Armenians. Two terrorists have been detained.

The press-service also points to frequent diversions towards regular-route bases moving from Georgia to Azerbaijan and from Daghestan to Azerbaijan.

The Azerbaijani press-service believes this is indicative of the intention by some "definite forces not so much as to spill blood as to make Caucasian nations fight among themselves through terrorism." The press-service says recent acts of terrorism took place right at a time when leaders of Caucasian states began to speak more "intensively and concretely" about the need to settle problems peacefully and by political means.

Elchibey: Russian Defense Ministry Influencing Conflict

OW0103162493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1558 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Foreign aggression, claims of foreign forces on the country's territorial integrity" remain, in the view of President Abulfaz Elchibey, the basic cause of the tense situation in his country. In an address to activists of the Popular Front which he leads he said that the situation in the Transcaucasian region was contingent on the political processes in Russia. He thinks that reactionary elements in the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry want to preserve a military presence in the region by keeping sources of instability going.

At the same time he emphasized that Azerbaijan intends to build relations with the Russian Federation on the basis of "mutual compromises," "very cautiously, without carrying anything too far." "It is most important to avoid enmity between Azerbaijan and Russia, although certain circles are trying to push us in that direction," Elchibey said.

IF [INTERFAX] Note: A note which the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry sent to its Russian counterpart last week said that Russian servicemen took part in the offensive operations of Armenian militias in Nagorno-Karabakh. A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman called that story "a fable" and said that not a single

Russian trooper took part in the Karabakh hostilities. "An impression is created that as military setbacks plague one of the sides in the conflict, they are explained, as a matter of ritual, by alleged Russian interference," said a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman. On the other hand, he thought that it was not quite impossible that former servicemen of the former Soviet Army fought as mercenaries in the militias of either side.

In his national TV address secretary of the state Panakh Guseynov said that the country's leadership rejected an ultimatum made by the Russian military that the 104th division of the Russian army stationed in Gyandzh be given the status of a peace keeping force. He noted that at their meetings with the "military and political leadership of Russia" the Azerbaijani negotiators admitted that Russia had strategic interests in the Transcaucasian region. On the other hand, the Azerbaijani leadership is convinced that it would be naive to pin hopes for a solution of the Karabakh problem on Russian armed forces. "If it wants to survive, Azerbaijan must set up its own armed forces capable of protecting the country's territorial integrity," said Guseynov.

Comments on Military Situation, Economy

NC0103174893 Baku TURAN in English 1356 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Baku, 1 Mar (TURAN)—Enlarged congress of representatives of the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF], at which Abulfaz Elchibey made a speech, took place in Baku within last weekend.

Analyzing the situation in Azerbaijan, president said that it is sufficiently complicated. The main reason of it is, as ever, aggression of Armenia. At the same time, intensity enlarged last time in connection with the pressure of reactionary military-political circles of Moscow upon Azerbaijan. Attempts to make Azerbaijan join the CIS are not ceased, said the president. More over, prolonged provocations and diversions prove that Moscow generals do not want to lose their positions in the Transcaucasus. As illustration of such pressure Abulfaz Elchibey recalled the visit of Minister of Defence of Russia Grachev to Georgia without consent of Tbilisi and his announcement on strategical importance of Abkhazia and Adrzharia for Russia.

Concerning internal affairs, the president said that the war affects badly the economy, which suffers serious crisis. Azerbaijan connects its hopes in this sphere with joint exploitation of oil reaches of the Republic with Western companies.

Position of agriculture, all proceeds of which, continue to drop, remains the most complicated. The president connects improvement of the situation in this sphere with the conducting of deep reforms and supporting of state farming.

Kamberov Talks With Counterpart at Black Sea Meeting

OW0103144593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian and Azerbaijani parliament speakers Babken Araktsyan and Isa Kamberov held talks in Istanbul as part of last week's meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation among the Black Sea States. The two speakers discussed methods to achieve a settlement in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, Kamberov told Interfax at Baku Airport on his return from Turkey.

Kamberov pointed out that the unofficial meeting had been the first of its kind between heads of parliament from the two countries. The talks, he said, were of a preparatory nature.

President Reaches Agreement With Afghanistan on POW's

NC0103134993 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0824 1 Mar GMT 93

[Text] Baku 01.03.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—At the request of President Elchibey Afghanistan part agreed to return Azerbaijan citizens irrespective of their nationality who were taken as prisoners during Afghan war, was said to ASSA-IRADA at Azerbaijan republic's Press-Service. This agreement was reached at the meeting of Azerbaijan president's adviser Nikhat Chetingaya and Addzalov, executive of president administration with the head of Afghanistan Supreme Soviet General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam [title as received] in Kabul. Agreements about Afghan youth's training in Azerbaijan and broadening of cultural relations between these two countries were reached.

New 'Compatriot Party' Holds Constituent Congress

LD0203101693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] The name of a new political party—Compatriot [Yurdash] Party—has been written in the list of political parties active in the republic. At its constituent congress held last week, it was pointed out that the party is planning work to represent the Azerbaijani diaspora. The regulations and program of the party was confirmed at the congress. Ismail [word indistinct] was elected chairman of the party.

Georgia

Shevardnadze on Relations With Russia, Iran

OW0103164093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 01 Mar 93

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Excerpts] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said in a traditional Monday [1 March] radio address to the republic that Russo-Georgian relations were "in a difficult phase." "This produces a certain apprehension not only for me, but also for certain circles in Russia, which believe that the continuation of such a situation is unacceptable for both sides," he observed. [passage omitted]

The Georgian leader also emphasized that he remained a supporter of a continued dialogue with Russia. Reporting that the Georgian parliament was currently debating the question of Russo-Georgian negotiations, he expressed hope that the outcome would be in favor of their continuation. Shevardnadze also considers it important that the fourth round of Russo-Georgian negotiations be pursued to their end, and that the necessary documents be presented so that the parties can decide whether they should be signed. [passage omitted]

The head of state was very satisfied with the recent visit to Tbilisi by an Iranian military delegation. He said that Teheran was interested in the military-industrial potential of Georgia. Shevardnadze emphasized, however, that there could be no prospects of military cooperation with Iran without Russian participation, since all of the republic's enterprises were directly connected with Russia's military-industrial complex. He cited the example of Tbilisi's aircraft factory, which is 80% dependent upon raw and other materials from Russia.

Shevardnadze called for the broadening of cooperation between the three republics of the Transcaucasus. He said that it would not be long before a broad-ranging treaty would be signed with Armenia, for which the preliminary work had already been done at the foreign ministry. He also reported that his working calendar included visits to Ukraine, Germany, Italy, and Turkey.

Notes Problems, Secret Lab

LD0103191593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1640 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Telephone dispatch from Tbilisi by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dvali]

[Text] In his traditional radio address today, head of state Eduard Shevardnadze dwelled on the main questions of foreign and domestic policy which seems the most problematical. Concerning the latest events in Abkhazia, Shevardnadze pointed out that the situation in that region is fairly critical; nevertheless, he stressed, I am a supporter of the dialogue between Russia and Georgia continuing.

At the same time the head of state noted that a major stumbling block in relations between the two countries is the secret laboratory of the Russian Army in Eshera village near Sukhumi. The fact is, this tectonic laboratory in which several million dollars has been invested is engaged in work to study the possibility of using directed underground explosions for military purposes.

Moreover, as some military sources in Georgia indicate, the actual territorial locality of the laboratory is of fundamental significance for the Russian Army. From this point, on the dividing line between Europe and Asia, it is possible to keep under control the whole Near East region.

As Shevardnadze pointed out, he has repeatedly proposed to the Russian leadership that this laboratory be jointly operated or jointly guarded with the help of international organizations that supervise these nuclear facilities.

As you know, Eduard Shevardnadze once made a fairly true forecast of the development of the political processes in Russia. I am referring to the familiar August events. In this connection it might be of interest to Mayak listeners to learn that concerning the events in Russia, Shevardnadze said: It will not come to a putsch in Russia, but the month of March will be difficult for that country. The days up to 15 March will give the answer to many questions, above all, the question of the referendum should be resolved. But I do not think it should come to a putsch, the head of state repeated.

Concerned About Confrontation

AU0103155393 Munich FOCUS in German 1 Mar 93 p 11

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by an unidentified FOCUS correspondent in Tbilisi; date not given: "Shevardnadze: I Have Lost the Game"]

[Text] In the Georgian capital Tbilisi, President Eduard Shevardnadze told FOCUS that he was very worried about the dramatically culminating confrontation between Russia and Georgia.

[FOCUS] Russian Defense Minister Leonid Kravchuk [name as published] is in Abkhazia. What does that mean for your country?

[Shevardnadze] We are trying to avoid an armed confrontation with the Russians. Political forces in Moscow are motivating the radicals. The Russian defense minister is certainly one of them. His unannounced visit to Abkhazia is a violation of diplomatic rules and national sovereignty.

[FOCUS] Does President Yeltsin know what Kravchuk is doing here?

[Shevardnadze] In my opinion, Yeltsin is having great difficulties himself. He is no longer in control of what is going on in Russia.

[FOCUS] What does that mean for Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] Today, Russia has all the possibilities to destroy our country, and some Russian politicians are firmly determined to do so. We have to expect that the Defense Ministry in Moscow will do everything to annihilate the state of Georgia.

[FOCUS] Why?

[Shevardnadze] Kravchuk said that for strategic reasons, Russia cannot clear Sukhumi and Batumi. If Russia were not to defend these territories, Moscow would lose control over the Black Sea.

[FOCUS] So what will happen next?

[Shevardnadze] I am standing with my back against the wall, I have lost the game. If Russia is trying to destroy Georgia, then it will annihilate itself.

[FOCUS] Why?

[Shevardnadze] Because it will trigger a chain reaction. Russia should get its extremists and separatists under control. They have the arms.

Foreign Ministry Protests Seizure of Ship

OW0103194693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Foreign Ministry has lodged a note of protest against the seizure of the Georgian ship the Gagra on February 23 by Abkhazian militants in Russian territorial waters. The ship was on its way to Sochi. The crew and Georgian passengers were beaten up and taken hostage and other passengers robbed and released later, the note says.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry also said that on February 28 representatives of the Sochi prosecutor's office and the prosecutor of the city of Gagra appeared aboard the Georgian fishing boats the Argo and the Pitsunda at Sochi's port and demanded that the ships should be immediately handed over to the Abkhasian separatists. The note says that the prosecutor's office representatives threatened the ships would be taken away by force.

The Argo and the Pitsunda carrying cargoes of citrus fruit and tea are on the roads of Sochi. They are not allowed to leave for the open sea and the crew members are not permitted to go ashore to buy foodstuffs, water and fuel.

The Georgian Foreign Ministry strongly protested what it described as provocative and unlawful actions by Russian officials and expressed the hope that the Russian side would take action to stop aggressive actions against the citizens and ships of sovereign Georgia.

Abkhazian Allegation of Arms Trade With Israel Rejected

LD0103185193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 1 Mar 93

[By the Georgian News Agency for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi March 1 TASS—The press service of the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, rejected reports by the press service of the Abkhazian Parliament alleging that prominent Israeli trader Jacob Nimrodi discussed with the Georgian leadership during talks in Tbilisi the possibility of selling Israeli weapons to Georgia.

Without denying the fact of the meeting reported by the press, the Georgian president's press service said that the subject under discussion was the possibility of supplies of potable water from Georgia to Israel and other Middle East countries.

Ties Established Between Adzharian Leader, NDP

AU0103112093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] David Berdzenishvili, member of the Georgian Parliament, told a correspondent from the IBERIA news agency that (?financial and) political ties had been established between Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Adzharian Supreme Council, and the Georgian National Democratic Party [NDP; led by Giorgi Chanturia]. Their alliance was uncovered through documents they obtained. [passage indistinct].

Railway, Gas Pipeline to Armenia Protected

NC0103184493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] During his address on Tbilisi radio today, Eduard Shevardnadze said that Georgia has placed the railway, gas pipeline, and other important lifelines linking Georgia to Armenia under special protection. A SNARK correspondent reported this from the Georgian capital.

Referring to Georgian-Armenian relations, the Georgian leader noted that the drafts of 15 agreements already have been prepared and are scheduled to be signed during the upcoming meeting with Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Nazarbayev Informs Shevardnadze of Economic Cooperation

AU0103162293 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 23 Feb 93 p 1

[Letter "To E.A. Shevardnadze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Parliament" from N. Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan; date not given]

[Text] **Dear Eduard Ambrosi dze [son of Ambrosi]! Allow me to express my gratitude for the invitation to visit your republic, which I will definitely take advantage of in the future.**

The Republic of Kazakhstan is interested in preserving and developing economic ties with the Republic of Georgia on the basis of the principles of international law and mutual benefit and respect.

The governments of our states have signed an agreement on commercial and economic cooperation for 1993. In January of this year, negotiations were held in the city of Alma-Ata between delegations from Georgia and Kazakhstan as a result of which a protocol on the implementation of the aforementioned agreement was signed.

On my instructions, the volume of deliveries of the most important types of products has been maintained at the 1992 level. On the agreement of the sides, the volume of mutual deliveries of wheat and tea will be determined between the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture and the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture and the Processing Industry. The volume of deliveries of meat and meat products will be agreed upon in July of this year.

I express confidence that the development of mutually beneficial economic cooperation will continue to promote the strengthening of traditional friendly relations between our peoples.

Yours sincerely,
N. Nazarbayev

Goguadze Pleased With Black Sea Parliamentary Assembly

AU0103102693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Yesterday, Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament, returned to Tbilisi from Istanbul where he headed a Georgian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation of Black Sea Countries.

The parliamentary speakers of the 13 member countries signed this assembly's founding document and its main regulations. Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] speaker gave a high assessment of the results of the assembly. Batoni Vakhtang Goguadze said: This big organization should direct its activities toward protecting the honor of the member countries and have its decisive say in the resolution of those ethnic conflicts that exist in these countries.

Estonia

Foreign Ministry Responds to Kozyrev Decolonization Charge

WS0203150393 Tallinn BNS in English 1702 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, Mar 01, BNS—The Estonian Foreign Ministry responded today to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's charge that Estonia was forcing non-natives to leave the country.

The Russian minister had called the activists of Estonian nationals impermissible, citing the activities of a group called Decolonization. This kind of activity backed by the authorities may "seriously harm the Estonian-Russian relations," he said.

In a press release, the ministry denied any government association with Decolonization and says that the group, "like all other citizens' associations, must follow the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia that fully corresponds to internationally recognized norms of human rights."

The ministry said it understands the free flow of people moving across the Estonian-Russian border. Estonia's liberation from the half-century occupation means many people must make decisions about their further life, it said. "Many people do not wish to be separated from their relatives, and their wish to move is fully understandable," the press service said.

"Estonia has repeatedly confirmed its loyalty to international human rights agreements and endeavors to help those moving out and moving in."

"The course of the Republic of Estonia to promoting normal, good-neighborly and equal relations with the democratic Russia has been manifested in a number of official statements and in the practical activities of the government," said the ministry. "Judging by these, one can estimate the policy of the state of Estonia in relations with Russia."

Envoy to Moscow Sees Room for Improvement in Relations

MK0103081093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 27 Feb 93 p 11

[Andrey Yedemskiy article: "Estonian Ambassador Thinks it Is Not So Bad To Be Without Citizenship"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last week the Estonian Embassy gave a reception to mark the 75th anniversary of the republic's formation. The small building on Sobinovskiy Pereulok managed to accommodate 200 guests, including representatives of the diplomatic corps and over a hundred Russians, who, as it were, made up for the absence of an official Russian delegation at the celebration in Tallinn. Shortly before the festivities Juri Kahn, Estonia's ambassador to Russia, received a KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent.

Mr. Kahn belongs to the "diplomats-through-coercion" category—those who were enlisted to serve in the first months after the republic restored its independence. He knows Russia well—he defended his dissertation at the Mathematics Institute; he worked two years at the USSR Supreme Soviet, and he has kept good relations with many representatives of the Russian political elite. All this gives him a fairly good understanding of current developments—although lately, by own his admission, even he "cannot completely understand what is going on here."

According to the ambassador, Russian-Estonian relations are developing "not as well as they should" between two neighbors. The relations are complicated by serious problems, among which Mr. Kahn singled out the continued presence of Russian troops in his country, debates on the territorial issue, and Russia's pressure on the "Russian-speaking" population in Estonia over the question of choosing citizenship. The presence of Russian troops in Estonia actually symbolizes "the continuation of occupation" and, in the ambassador's view, it is for that reason that Western investors are not inclined to make large investments in his country.

Mr. Kahn reaffirmed his country's official position on the territorial problem. Under the Estonian constitution, the republic's border does not coincide with the present demarcation line [kontrolno-propusknaya liniya]. Estonia bases itself on a legal foundation—the Tartu peace treaty of 1920 whereby it incorporates tracts of Pecherskiy Rayon in Pskov Governorate. The Estonian-Russian treaty of 12 January 1991 confirmed the principle of territorial integrity of both countries and with it, the 1920 border. No other treaties have been signed and therefore the ambassador believes it is "improper," from the point of view of international law, to talk about Estonia's territorial claims, and that "it is possible to find solutions satisfactory to both sides."

During the interview the subject of Russia's attitude to ethnic Russians in Estonia was also raised. Today half a million people have not yet made their choice (to become citizens of Russia, apply for Estonian citizenship, or acquire the status of "stateless person"). In this connection Mr. Kahn observed that the latter option enables a person to refuse to serve in the army and is very attractive to young Russians. Russia's intention to preserve Russians in Estonia and turn them into "good Estonians" is hard to understand. The Estonian authorities believe that "each people should live in its historical motherland." [passage omitted]

Meri, Russian Admiral Discuss Troop Strength

WS0203150093 Tallinn BNS in English 2259 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Tallinn, March 01, BNS—Some 5,900 Russian soldiers are still stationed in Estonia, Admiral Yuriy Belov said in a meeting today with Estonian President Lennart Meri.

The figure is decidedly less than earlier Estonian estimates. Estonian officials had said they thought the numbers reached as high as 9,000 soldiers.

The president also received the commander in chief of the Baltic navy, Vladimir Yegorov.

Admiral Yegorov promised to make every effort to accelerate the withdrawal of the Russian navy from Estonia. The two biggest problems are building living quarters for the military who leave Estonia and the ammunition removal, he said.

Meri said he was concerned about the oil pollution in the Paldiski harbour.

"Estonia feels the pulse of Russia and wishes that the development of Russia should not influence the situation in Estonia," Meri said at the meeting.

At the same time Meri happily accepted the Russian President's Boris Yeltsin's congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. "Estonia will further on be interested in wide contacts with Russia," Meri said. Meri forwarded Estonia's support to the democratic forces in Russia through admiral Yegorov.

Russian Military Transports Make Unauthorized Landing

LD0103173793 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] In spite of the absence of a permit from the Estonian side, two Il-76 military aircraft belonging to Russia landed at Tartu military airport at 1749 yesterday. This was reported to the Baltic News Service by the border guard department. Since the Russian pilots did not have a permit for landing at Tartu, the border guard department demanded their departure, and at 1945 the Russian military aircraft did indeed fly back to Pskov.

As is known, the Russian Embassy in Tallinn informed the Estonian Foreign Ministry on Monday [1 March] that beginning Thursday three military transport planes a week would be landing at Tartu military airfield. The reason for the flights was given as transport of military property, and servicemen and their families and personal effects from Tartu garrison. No permit was issued for the flights.

In order to obtain a permit it would be necessary to apply to the Foreign Ministry five days prior to planned entry into Estonian airspace. A permit will be issued by the government when authorized by the Ministry of Defense. The government introduced this present procedure on Thursday; previously the procedure for Russian military aircraft entering Estonian airspace was unregulated.

KGB Said To Continue Operation With Russian Army Units

WS0103144693 Tallinn BNS in English 1110 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 26, BNS—The KGB still operates with the Russian army units stationed in Estonia, say Hardo Aasmae, the head of the Estonian commission that disbanded the local KGB branch.

Aasmae, speaking before the parliament today, said his commission has no power to handle the KGB special offices, including those with the ex-Soviet border defense units in Estonia.

However, he said, some of the lists of KGB agents may still be obtained from Russia in the negotiations. In previous negotiations, Russia has limited the records it relinquished to those of criminal prosecution.

"We have got no political decision so far concerning the KGB and the people who worked there," said Aasmae. "The only thing is the oath of conscience, which has been put together in an absolutely incompetent manner. No individual who has been engaged in serious collaboration with the KGB has owned up." The government also needs to clearly define what to regard as collaboration with the KGB, he said.

"I don't believe the version that the KGB formed the Council of Estonia, and then the Popular Front, to dig a hole to itself," he said. "But taking into consideration the influence of the KGB, I'm sure it had informants in these organizations."

He said officials from Moscow, in a private conversation, explained why so few Estonian dissidents were jailed. The officials said that "the process was the other way round," which means that namely some of the fighters for freedom became KGB collaborators to escape jail.

MPs proposed a closed-door session, since Aasmae refused to reveal the location of the former KGB library. After some discussion, he said the library was in a cellar of the parliament and government complex.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Official Visit to UK

OW0103191093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1711 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste is leaving for Britain on an official visit. According to the Foreign Ministry's press service, Velliste will have talks with the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, Defence and Transport Secretaries and senior officials at a number of other ministries. An Estonian-British agreement on air links is going to be signed. T. Velliste will return to Tallinn on March 4.

Democratic Labor Party Critical of Assembly Resolution

OW0103191593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1710 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [1 March] the ruling body of the Democratic Labor Party of Estonia (DLPE) made public a statement saying that the restrictions imposed by the State Assembly on issuing national capital bonds were inconsistent with the country's constitution and infringed on human rights.

As reported earlier, the bill on amendments of and addenda to the law on privatization of state- and municipally-owned living premises was amended on February 23 and from now on when the bonds are issued the time of paid employment in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the USSR's Young Communist League, and their Estonian branches and successors will not be included in the seniority.

The DLPE is a successor of the independent communist party of Estonia.

Latvia

Economic Reform Minister on Agreement With U.S.

WS0103073193 Riga LETA in English 1114 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, February 26 (LETA)—A project of signing a cooperation agreement for a sum of 100 million dollars had taken a certain shape at meetings with American businessmen, said Aivars Kreituss, Latvian Minister of Economic Reforms, on Thursday [25 February] during a news conference held upon his returning from his recent visit in the United States of America. The Latvian part would have to pay 40 per cent of the sum.

The minister told journalists that the previous agreement provided supplies of oil products to this Baltic country, and also construction of two oil refineries here, in Latvia. The minister, however, declined to reveal the names of American companies involved in the project. He added only that previous consultations with lawyers and support by the government of the USA showed loyalty and honesty of the would-be partners. During the negotiations the American partners had expressed their willingness to expand cooperation, increasing the sum of their investments up to 600 million dollars and constructing a plant in Latvia, which would manufacture consumer goods of forestry products. In exchange for oil products the American partners are eager to receive from Latvia processed timber worth one billion dollars.

During his visit the Minister of Economic Reforms had reached also an agreement with several American broadcasting companies on prompt exchange of information.

New Monetary Unit To Be Introduced 5 Mar

OW0103200993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1932 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Latvia, the national monetary unit, the lats has begun to be introduced into circulation starting from March 5, the Monetary Reform Committee said on television Monday night [1 March].

Five-lats-notes will be equivalent to one thousand Latvian rubles (temporary money, currently the maximum denomination of the Latvian bank's notes is 500 Latvian rubles). Transition to lats as an official means of payment will be gradual. No deadlines have been announced yet.

Latvian rubles will be exchanged for lats on the basis of the 200:1 exchange rate throughout the whole transitional period. The official exchange rate of the lats to the US dollar as of March 2 will be 1:1.32, nearly the same as that of the pound sterling.

Earlier Latvian Bank officials said that their country had already shifted to its own currency and that the monetary reform in Latvia had been completed, except for the exchange of banknotes.

The Latvian ruble was introduced as an equivalent of the Russian ruble in May 1992 to ease the shortage of cash and was in circulation alongside the ruble. Since July 20, 1992 the Latvian ruble became the sole official legal tender for all types of payment in Latvia. Latvia allows to use other currencies alongside the Latvian ruble, however, no one has the right to reject payments in rubles.

The exchange rate of the Latvian ruble to the US dollar first fell insignificantly since July 1992 and then rose somewhat. The current official exchange rate of the Latvian ruble to the US dollar is 155.5:1.

The Bank of Latvia has introduced into circulation 16 billion 319 million Latvian rubles, 6.262 rubles per one resident.

The monetary reform committee, which is empowered to make all decisions concerning the introduction of the national currency, includes Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis, Latvian Bank President Einars Repse and head of the committee on economics of the Latvian parliament Ojars Kehris.

Gorbunovs Leaves on Official Visit to France

OW0103141093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs on Monday [1 March] flew to Paris, where he

is expected on 2 March to sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation between France and Latvia.

Latvian Foreign Ministry Department of Information Director Mikhail Bobkov has informed Baltfax that Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andreyevs, who is part of the delegation, intends to spend part of his time in France talking with representatives of the French foreign ministry about the building which housed the Latvian embassy until 1940, in which year the French transferred the building to the USSR. The building currently houses the Russian Federation trade legation.

'Soviet' Passports No Longer Valid in Country

LD0103172793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] With effect from today, Soviet passports are no longer valid anymore without a record of registration of residents. A fine of 1,000 to 2,000 rubles may also be imposed on those residents who avoid registration. However, many have not yet registered, for objective reasons. It is therefore envisaged that the term of (?preliminary) registration will be extended.

Lithuania

President To Form Consultative Council With Opposition

OW2702183693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1612 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Algirdas Brazauskas expressed his intention to propose to Seimas opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis to join the presidential consultative council. The President reported about this in his interview with journalists and pointed out that Lithuania's political parties and organizations could "discuss different concrete issues" in this council.

Responding to the question whether he is ready to agree to the President's proposal, Landsbergis said in his interview with the Lithuanian service "Radio Free Europe" that he "does not wish to speak with political partners through journalists."

The idea to create a consultative council of Lithuania's political forces was put forward by Landsbergis himself in the parliament on February 18.

Opposition Critical of Government's Russia Policy

OW2602215993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1932 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian opposition is for the establishment of "better relations" with democratic Russia, but calls for greater carefulness since "democracy in Russia is under threat, and its troops has not yet been withdrawn from Lithuania." The opposition warns that "the former Soviet-style provincial policy" conducted by the Lithuanian leadership, which is "ignoring democracy and Lithuania's links with the West, would be pro-Russian." This was declared in a statement issued by the opposition on Friday [26 February].

The statement also says that "conservative and voluntaristic decisions of the Lithuanian Soviet-style parliament", among which the opposition names the adoption of Lithuania's budget for 1993, "would further on do harm to Lithuania as a potential economic partner, would scare off investment, credits and aid programs, would increase Lithuania's isolation from the West."

The opposition claims that "there are facts of pressure being put on law-enforcement bodies, dictate and terror, plans to deprive opposition members of their mandates, and to form an obedient Constitutional court on the basis of one-party sympathies."

Landsbergis Doubts Competence of Prime Minister Candidate

OW0103191393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1711 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vytautas Landsbergis, the opposition leader in the Lithuanian Sejm, expressed doubts about the competence of Adolfas Slezevicius whom President Algirdas Brazauskas had nominated for the position of the prime-minister on Friday [26 February].

Landsbergis said that the nominee's expertise in the food industry was insufficient for "a comprehensive and independent work as prime-minister."

New Parliament Chairman on Responsibilities

OW2702181493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1611 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "It is my task to provide coordination among different positions and opinions in parliament, although I am in favor of disputes and pluralism," said Ceslovas Jursenas, elected Chairman of the Seimas on Thursday [25 February].

In a radio address on Friday [26 February], he expressed satisfaction with the existence of an opposition in parliament. The Tevynes Santara, led by Vytautas Landsbergis, forms the opposition's right wing, the Social Democratic group, its "leftist center."

Jursenas said there are plans to set up an informal body within the Seimas, called the Conference of Representatives from Parliamentary Groups, which will be "coordinating different opinions." Jursenas himself "is ready to take active part in the work of the conference."

Proposals will be put to the vote in exceptional cases only, when it proves impossible to reach agreement through discussion, but voting is "a normal parliamentary way to find a solution."

Electoral Commission Disputes Supreme Court Decision

OW0203055593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1621 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At its most recent session the main electoral commission of the Lithuanian Seimas (parliament) refused to comply with a decision from the Lithuanian Supreme Court. The court discovered violations in the commission's activities during Seimas elections in November, 1992. The Supreme Court ruled that the electoral commission announced false results of elections in several voting districts, stripping the then victorious Democratic Labor Party of Lithuania of three deputy mandates. The mandates fell to the Sajudis movement and other right wing political organizations.

The Supreme Court ordered the commission to cancel their decision annulling the results of elections and restore the Democratic Labor Party's deputy mandates.

Chairman of the main electoral commission Vaclovas Litvinas made a statement Sunday [28 February] saying that the commission's refusal to comply with the Supreme Court's decision was "an unprecedented violation of the constitution and the law on Seimas elections, and ignored the will of the voters." He announced his resignation from his position as chairman of the electoral committee in connection with the issue.

Seimas Resolution Forms Sajudis Into Political Party

OW2802191493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1621 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A session of the Seimas in Vilnius passed a resolution to form a new party - the Union for the Rebirth of the Motherland, Sajudis. The party's main aim, states the resolution, should be to "resist materialism and cynicism and protect people from spiritual decay."

Honorary Chairman of Sajudis and leader of the parliamentary opposition Vytautas Landsbergis presented a report before the Seimas criticizing the ruling Democratic Labor Party and warning of "Russia's intrigues against Lithuania."

56 year old Seimas Deputy Algirdas Katkus, who earlier led the Sajudis city organization, was elected the new chairman of Sajudis.

World Bank Delegation Studies Cooperation With Government

OW0103191293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1711 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania received a World Bank delegation in Vilnius on Monday [1 March].

The president's economic advisor Rimantas Zabarauskas told Baltfax that the delegation arrived in Lithuania to see first hand how the economic reforms proceed, analyze the efficiency of using the $60 million credit the Bank gave Lithuania at the end of the last year, study the situation in foreign trade and the social sphere, and the budgetary policy. A decision on providing further aid by the Bank will depend on the delegation's findings.

Ulrich Zachau, who leads the delegation, told the president that his country may expect from the Bank $60 to 80 million in financial aid for development of the energy industry and a credit for the financing of manufacturing industries. If specific programs of efficient use of the finances are worked out, Lithuania, he said, may expect that its agriculture will also be financed.

The delegation will stay in Lithuania for about two weeks.

Statistics Department Notes Increase in Food Prices

OW0103185393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1709 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After a temporary stabilization in late December and early January, food prices are once again on the rise in Lithuania.

According to the Statistics Department, food prices rose by 7% between last December and this January, and prices continued to rise in February. Within 10 days - from January 25 to February 5 - prices on noodles in state and cooperative stores increased by 17%, butter went up by 13%, chicken and eggs by 11%, fish and fish products by 7%, sugar and salt by 6%, and confectionery goods by 5%.

Janina Kumiene, deputy director of the Lithuanian government's Business Competition Service, believes the price increases show that many manufacturers and traders are abusing their positions as monopolies.